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UNANIMOUS DECISION

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NEARBY

Global Investors' Meet: DKS upbeat

BENGALURU
The Global Investors' Meet – Invest Karnataka 2025, set to be inaugurated on February 11, is expected to attract investment proposals worth ₹10 lakh crore, announced Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday.
» Page 6

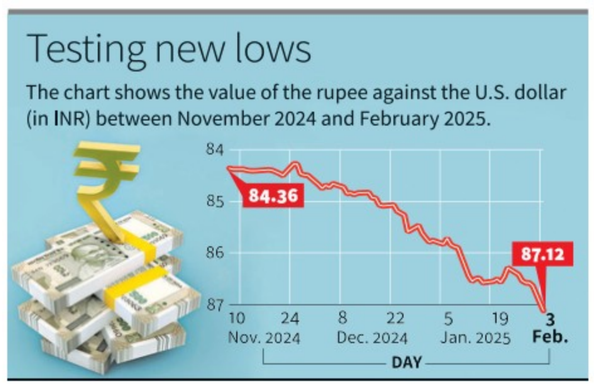
BJP rebels to meet top leaders

HUBBALLI
All eyes in the Karnataka BJP are now on developments in Delhi as rebel leaders are set to meet the central leaders on Tuesday to complain against party State president B.Y. Vijayendra. » Page 6

Amid global tumult, rupee breaches 87 against dollar

Indian unit slumps 49 paise on first day of trading after Trump's tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China; Finance Ministry official hints Centre is unfazed, terms it an uncertainty to be dealt with

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI



The Indian rupee slumped almost 0.6% or 49 paise to breach the 87 mark against the U.S. dollar on Monday, amid a meltdown for most emerging market currencies and stock markets across Asia and Europe on the first day of trading after President Donald Trump imposed higher tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China. The rupee, which had crossed the 86 mark vis-à-vis the dollar on January 10, closed at 87.11 after slipping close to 87.3 during the day.

A top Finance Ministry official signalled the government was unfazed by the currency's trajectory, terming it a global uncertainty that has to be dealt with and stressing that India does not believe in using "exchange rate policy" to push trade and the key is to manage volatility, not to attain a specified level for the currency.

'Dollar Index is high'

"What is happening over the last couple of months is that the dollar is appreciating. The Dollar Index is pretty high, and against all currencies... it is not just the emerging markets, but even with the developed countries. Today, the Dollar Index has picked up again and is above 109," Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth told *The Hindu*.

The index had risen over 1% through the day, to 109.7.

"As per our policy that we know the Reserve Bank of India follows, is to take care of the volatility at any level of dollar. At any level, if the dollar is appreciating, that means our imports become a little costlier, but our exports become competitive," he noted.

"However, India has never used exchange rate policies to promote exports. That is not our policy. That's not a sustainable way to keep growing so we believe in strengthening our export competitiveness through better quality," Mr. Seth emphasised, adding that India can only envisage ways to handle the uncertainty that any move by the U.S. to raise tariffs will trigger.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Campaigning for Delhi election ends

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Campaigning for the Delhi Assembly election ended at 6 p.m. on Monday. Over 1.5 crore voters in 70 constituencies will seal the fate of the candidates on February 5. The results will be out on February 8.

The battle between the Aam Aadmi Party, BJP and Congress saw many rallies and campaigns. The campaign saw the AAP and the BJP running to the Election Commission on alleged voter deletion in various constituencies, and comments made by AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal related to "ammonia in the Yamuna river".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

BJP supporters during a public rally for the Delhi Assembly election at R.K. Puram in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

SC to wait for CFSL report on alleged Biren audio

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to wait for a report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) on the veracity of audio recordings allegedly "establishing complicity" of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in the ethnic violence in the State which led to many deaths.

A Bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was informed by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta that the Union government had sent the content handed over to it by the petitioner, Kuki Organisation for Human Trust, to the CFSL. Mr. Mehta said the government had requested individuals who had uploaded material on Twitter (now 'X') to share the original recording.

"Please examine all this," Chief Justice Khanna said. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that Truth Labs report of the audio tapes show "93% chances that it is his [Mr. Singh's] voice. We had sent it to Truth Labs."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

TRUTH LABS » PAGE 12

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Khazima — the remarkable journey of India's carrom World champion

The teenager, who is coached by her father Mahboob Basha, has fulfilled her brother Abdul Rahman's dream of winning the title; she hopes to renovate the coaching centre where she honed her skills and aspires to spread the sport far and wide

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The banner at the entrance of a dilapidated building with a thatched roof over it reads: *Ella Pugazhum Iraivan Oruvanuke* (all glory belongs to God). On the banner is a picture of a young girl who has just made history in the sport of carrom.

As you enter the building – it's a coaching centre run by Mahboob Basha in Cherian Nagar, a 10-15 minute walk from Tollgate (a north Chennai neighbourhood) – a frail girl, wearing a dark tracksuit and a blue India jersey, walks briskly and introduces herself.

She then enters a hall that has six carrom boards with hardly any space between them and begins chatting casually with the kids, aged between six and 16, who are all busy playing.

M.B. Khazima, who recently bagged three titles – women's singles, women's doubles (with V. Mithra), and women's team championship – in the Carrom World Cup in the San Francisco Bay Area (USA), has a no-nonsense approach to life and sport.

The daughter of an autorickshaw driver, it has been a journey filled with struggles for the Chennai lass. All that looks to be over, for now. In recognition of her exploits, the Tamil Nadu Government awarded the youngest World Cup champion in the world with a cash prize of ₹1 crore.

Mahboob Basha, father, coach, mentor, and guide to the World Cup champion, is the driving force behind his daughter's rise. He struggled financially and sought help to ensure his daughter could take part in tournaments. When the COVID-19 lockdown struck, the family faced further hardships.

Difficult phase

"During lockdown, I couldn't ride my auto and started selling tea for a living. It was a very difficult time. Seeing our family struggle, my son, a former junior national carrom champion, began to work in a private company. We are indebted to the Tamil Nadu Government, the Chief Minister Mr. M. K. Stalin and the Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin for helping us financially," said Basha.

Impressed with Khazima's brilliant performance in the World Cup, the State Government has promised to renovate the coaching centre and work is expected to start soon.

"We now have around 40 players, many of them are medallists at the State and National level, now. When the renovation is complete, we expect more than 100 to join us. It will be an honour if Udhayanidhi Stalin cuts the ribbon," Basha said.

Having trained all her life at Cherian Nagar, Khazima doesn't want to move out of the area. "My father has been here as long as I can remember, and I was born here. I want to buy a new house in and around Cherian Nagar with the money the State Government has given us," said the World champion.

When Khazima reached San Francisco for the World Cup in November last year, she was not in her best spirits.

"I was not feeling great for a couple of days. My father was not with me. And moreover, I didn't like the food and the weather conditions, which were very cold and of course, the time difference didn't make it any easier. But slowly I began to get better," said the Federation Cup champion.

After a rather easy route to the final, where she met two-time World champion Rashmi Kumari, Khazima was tested to the limits by the 12-time National singles champion. In the summit clash, Rashmi led 19-0 in the third and final game before Khazima flipped the scripts to win the crown 25-24.

Timely support

"At that time (0-19), my mind was blank. All I was thinking was 'when will the match get over'. Trailing 0-19, Rashmi needed just six points to win. I remembered what my father used to tell me. 'Every board, try and take four points, you will be in the game'. I did just that.

"At every board I took four points. At 24-each, I regained my confidence while Rashmi started to feel the pressure and I capitalised on it. My preparations have been to win the singles title and I am very happy. It's all due to God's grace," said Khazima, whose visa was rejected twice by US authorities.

Khazima wouldn't have participated in the World Cup if not for the timely help from the State Government. She approached Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin to finance her travel for the World Cup and within a day she was sanctioned ₹1,50,000.

"No carrom player before me has received such a huge amount. I am very happy. I've seen and heard many good players dropping out of the sport due to financial reasons.

Grand reception

"When we arrived at the Chennai airport after the win, we had a grand reception. All this makes me proud and happy about my achievement and also gives me hope that the sport of carrom has a bright future," gushes Khazima, who is on a scholarship with Indian Oil Corporation.

Khazima looks forward to the day when carrom will be broadcast on television and watched by fans aplenty.

"When cricket is played, it is watched live by everyone. I want to see carrom being broadcast live. It is not that carrom is devoid of scholarships and job opportunities.

"Income Tax, IOC, ONGC, and others provide job opportunities if a player performs well," said the 18-year-old, who is a first-year student of B.A. Corporate Economics at the Justice Basheer Syeed Ahmed College.

Khazima started playing carrom when she was six years old. She participated in many tournaments in the cadet category and when she was nine years old, she started taking part in the senior category, which helped shape her game and style.

The spark

The spark was provided by her brother Abdul Rahman, a former junior national champion, and it pushed her to take the sport seriously. Since her brother had to give up the sport to help the family, Khazima was keen to win the World Cup for him.

"I have never won against him (Abdul). Even now he doesn't get scared of me while playing. After lockdown, he quit the sport to take care of the family. He wanted to win the World Cup. I told my father, 'I will win the World Cup'."

Khazima is good in almost all aspects of the game: thumbing, straight shots, and cut shots.

Her complete game is thanks to her mentors, former India player B. Radhakrishnan and Maria Irudayam, a nine-time National champion and two-time World champion who is now the Secretary of the Chennai District Carrom Association.

"Radhakrishnan sir doesn't play anymore. Even now when we go to the Senior Nationals, people enquire about him. When he plays, people start watching him. I wanted to be like him. Irudayam sir gave us special coaching during the World Cup, which helped me in tough situations. Maria sir helped me financially as well," said Khazima.

Bright future

According to her, India is one of the leading countries in carrom and the country can reach greater heights with better facilities from the state governments and proper support from the central government.

Having seen her father struggle to ensure she could pursue her sporting dreams, Khazima has pushed him to stop working and vowed to take care of the family going ahead.

Basha's vehicle remains parked outside the house, fully covered. He has not renewed his licence for more than a year now. "I do not really miss riding [the autorickshaw]. But I would like to take my daughter [in it] to tournaments in and around Chennai, if possible."

THE GIST

- Khazima's driving force has been her father Mahboob Basha, who is also her coach and mentor
- She has a simple approach to life and sport
- For Khazima, it has been a journey filled with struggles
- The dilapidated coaching centre where she trains is set to be fully renovated

Treated water is now available, but who will transport it?

Apartment complexes with surplus treated water are finding it difficult to sell the same due to unavailability of tankers

Akriti Duggal
BENGALURU

A sewage treatment plant installed in an apartment complex. FILE PHOTO

While the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) policy of allowing apartments to sell treated sewage water is a new alternative water source, the real challenge lies in the transportation of this water. Apartment complexes with surplus treated water are finding it difficult to sell it as tankers are not available, among other logistical reasons.

Arun Kumar, co-founder and Governing Council Member, Bengaluru Apartments Federation (BAF), said, "Treated water is being wasted because there are no buyers, and no market has been created for it. The water that is treated, but not used, goes down the drain and gets mixed with untreated water, which essentially makes it as good as untreated water. Apartments invest time, effort, and money, only for it to be wasted. There are transportation issues as well, as buyers have to spend money to transport the water, and tankers are in short supply as it's not viable because there isn't a proper market for treated water. The government must mandate that treated water be used for parks, roads with plants, and other non-potable purposes, instead of using fresh water."

Rajagopalan, president, L&T South City, Bannerghatta Road, added, "Tankers which are designated for transporting treated water cannot transport fresh water anymore. Hence the tankers are short in supply as it gets risky designating a tanker for a market that is not there."

"Transporting water is the major challenge for construction companies when buying from BWSSB, which is why they often turn to borewell water," said Suresh Hari, secretary, Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI). Similar concerns have been raised by apartment representatives.

Some success stories

Despite these challenges, some apartment complexes successfully implemented the sale of treated water. L&T South City, Bannerghatta has an STP capacity of 9.3 lakh litres per day, and sells water at ₹20 per kilolitre.

"We have sold over 2 crore litres so far, earning ₹4 lakh. Apart from this, we also give free treated water to Puttenahalli Lake. Since we have a dedicated pipeline into the lake, transportation is not a concern. We were also buying water for ₹33,000 everyday but now we don't buy a single tanker and save ₹10 lakh per month," said Mr. Rajagopalan.

Similarly, Century Saras, Yelahanka's former General Secretary, Satish Mallya said that their complex has an STP capacity of 75,000 litres per day and they were selling 20,000 litres per day to a nearby construction site for 2.5 months. "We were only able to do this as we had a pipeline to their site. Otherwise, the real bottleneck in selling treated water is the transportation," he said.

Getting summer ready

"With the upcoming dry season, East and Southeast Bengaluru are going to face groundwater challenges," said Vikram Rai, president, BAF. He also pointed out that treated water is already used for gardening, landscaping, flushing, etc. "If BWSSB can use treated water for lake recharge it will be a major step forward," he added.

Ram Prasath Manohar, chairman, BWSSB, said that the water utility only facilitates the policy but does not track individual sales of apartment complexes. "Last year, during the water crisis, BWSSB sold 65 million litres per day to construction companies. Now, the demand has reduced and we are only selling 32 million litres per day. Next month, we will be pushing for a mandate requiring construction companies to use treated water instead of borewell water," he said.

House panel report on Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill soon

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The 13-member committee, constituted to scrutinise the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, is likely to submit its report in February after conducting public hearings ahead of the budget session of the Karnataka Assembly. Whether the Bill will be tabled in the session is uncertain. The much-delayed civic polls in Bengaluru are being linked to the bill being passed, by the Congress.

The committee, headed by Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad was set up by Speaker U. T. Khader on August 22, 2024. The draft bill was introduced in the monsoon session of 2024. Following opposition, it was referred to the House committee, which has MLAs and MLCs from all parties.

The members are MLAs N.A. Haris, B. Shivanna, S.T. Somashekar, Priyakrishna, A.C. Srinivas, S. Suresh Kumar, S.R. Vishwanath, S. Raghu and G.T. Deve Gowda, and MLCs Puttanna, U.B. Venkatesh and H.S. Gopinath. They met multiple times to discuss many aspects of the bill, including splitting BBMP, disaster management, waste management, taxation, forest, lakes, and horticulture. Sources say the committee is finalising the report and is expected to submit it in February.

Mr. Arshad told *The Hindu*, "We have completed the task assigned to the committee. We will hold a public consultation on the Bill soon. If everything goes as planned, the report will be submitted in February."

Former Congress councillor Abdul Wajid hopes the Bill will be tabled in the session. "Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar has set a five-month deadline to hold civic polls," he said.

BJP members are likely to file dissent notes to the report, sources said. When the erstwhile BJP government had brought in the BBMP Act, 2020, Congress members of the joint House panel had refused to sign it calling the Act a 'missed opportunity' and filed dissent notes. However, the Bill was passed. After coming to power, the Congress constituted an expert panel and drafted the new Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, which came to the committee for examination.

Man booked for 311 violations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The City Market traffic police caught a travel agency employee with 311 traffic violations, committed over the last 1.5 years with a pending fine of ₹ 1.6 lakh.

The accused Sudeep Nagaraj, was working for a travel agency in Kalasipalya. He was not wearing a helmet and used to jump signals often. But the enforcement camera installed near his office had recorded the violations every time he passed by and generated 311 violations since February 2023.

A concerned road user who noticed Sudeep frequent violating rules checked his credentials and raised a complaint on the traffic police social media account. Based on the complaint, the City Market traffic police tracked him down and seized his bike. He was served notice to clear pending bills and get the vehicle released.

A police officer said that Sudeep might not be able to pay the fines considering his financial status. Moreover, the bike was not worth more than ₹20,000.

INDIAN RAILWAYS
BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

NOTIFICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, BLW/VARANASI ON CONTRACT BASIS

Notification has been issued for engagement of **01 post (UR-01)** on Contract Medical practitioners / Specialist (Paediatrician) and 02 post Contract Medical practitioners/GDMO(SC-01 and OBC-01) on contract basis in Central Hospital, BLW Varanasi. Walk-in-Interview is fixed on 13.02.2025, 10:00 AM, at Seminar Hall Central Hospital, BLW, and Varanasi. Eligible candidates must bring required documents in original and duly filled application format with one set of photocopy of required documents. Details of notification may be seen at BLW's website **https://blw.indianrailways.gov.in**

For General Manager (P), BLW/Varanasi
PRO/BLW/P-09 **Dated: 01.02.2025**

/blwvaranasi "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. B-SG-Proj-Augmentation
Dated : 27-01-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Augmentation of communication infrastructure with LAN over IP-MPLS network over South Western Railway.	Rs. 12,45,05,316.79

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 21-02-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Project/Bengaluru
PUB/748/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2024-25/79R
Dated : 25-01-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Provision of Auxiliary Transformer for Interlocked LC gates in Mysuru Division - GSU Work.	Rs. 79,91,283.48

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 17-02-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction Mysuru
PUB/746/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 18-CWM-UBLS-2024-25
Dated : 29-01-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Supply and Fitment of SS metal trough below RMPU in Place of FRP trough in ICF make LHB AC coaches at Carriage Repair Workshop Hubballi for a period of one year.	Rs. 1,33,06,402.56

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 16:00 Hrs on 19-02-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Deputy Chief Workshop Manager Hubballi
PUB/756/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 39 UBL 2024-25
Dated : 27.01.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :** South Hubballi-Dharwad Section: Construction of precast RCC boundary wall for a length of 2.3Km.	Rs. 2,47,49,441/-
2	**Hubballi Division :** Hubballi - Londa Section: Construction of pedestrian Subway {5.0x3.2m} at km.486/600 in between Navalur-Dharwad at km.486/600 Station.	Rs. 2,02,44,595/-
3	**Hubballi Division :** **Sub Work - I :** Proposed construction of High level platform at Parakanahatti Halt Station (Proposed Length 560mxwidth 6.0Mtrs). **Sub Work - II** : Proposed Construction of Track machine Rest House in Khanapur, Desur, Sulebhavi and Pachchapur. **Sub Work - III :** Provision of Low Cost platform shelters at Parakanahatti.	Rs. 6,01,69,447/-
4	**Hubballi Division :** **Sub Work-I :** Savanur - Proposed construction of staff quarters Type-II (4 units) at Savanur under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Central/ Jurisdiction. **Sub Work-II :** Improvements to Bagalkot Health unit, PME room modification works.	Rs. 1,31,71,842/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 Hrs on 25-02-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Hubballi
PUB/751/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

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GOLD AUCTION SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay of the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by registered post. They are therefore requested to payoff the liability, other charges and to redeem the pledged gold ornaments securities on or before **17.02.2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the bank's premises at **11 AM on 18.02.2025** or any other convenient date without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the bank.

S. No.	Borrower Name and Address	Account Number	Gross Weight	Net Weight	Outstanding Balance
1.	Mr. Jain Nikint No.2028, 2nd floor,1st Main Road, 12th A Cross, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560040.	8423653 10001117	602.30 Gm	552.00 Gm	Rs. 22,25,186.08 + Uncharged interest since 05.12.2023
2.	Mr. Rishabh Kothari No.2/1, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Vrushabhavathi, Bengaluru 560079	8423653 10001116	592.60 Gm	558.00 Gm	Rs. 22,18,094.39 + Uncharged interest
3.	(i) Mr. Sadha B (Borrower) No.124, KHB Colony, Krishnananda Nagar,Nandini Layout, Bengaluru 560096. (ii). Mrs. Asha S (Co-Borrower) No.9 1 12 Main Kempamma Layout, Lakshmidevi Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru-560096.	8423776 10000375 & 8423776 10000376	166.37 Gm	80.00 Gm	Rs. 9,71,111.95 + Uncharged interest
4.	(I) Miss. Mamatha (Borrower) No.49, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru-560096 (ii). Mrs. Asha S (Co-Borrower) No.9 1 12 Main Kempamma Layout,Lakshmidevi Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru 560096.	8423776 10000541	83.27 Gm	71.00 Gm	Rs. 13,36,314.87 + Uncharged interest

Date : 03.02.2025
Place : Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer Bank of India

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NOTICE

Mr. S Sunil, EC No.- 167043, Officer (JM1), posted at **Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bengaluru South Region, Bengaluru,** is remaining unauthorised absent from duty since **19.08.2024,** without pay. Accordingly, **Mr. S Sunil** was issued letter no. **RO:BENS:HRM:2024:1014** dated **26.09.2024,** letter no. **RO:BENS:HRM:2024:1088** dated **23.10.2024** and letter no. **RO:BENS:HRM:2024:1210** dated **05.12.2024** and the same was sent to his latest address recorded with the Bank. However, the envelope containing the above letters, has returned undelivered with remark by Postal Authority "Insufficient Address". The said envelope has been kept intact by the Bank.
Mr. S Sunil is hereby advised to collect, personally or through his duly authorized representative, the said envelopes containing the above letters from following address within -07- days of publication of this notice.

Date : 03.02.2025
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/- The Deputy General Manager Bank of Baroda

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking
ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bangalore - 560001
Ph No. 25310099, 080-25310181, E-mail - cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II, Bangalore will be sold "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities	Details and full description of the property	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price & Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	Incremental Value at Bid
1) The Managing Director M/s Technospark Industries India Pvt Ltd 1341, Kavalbyrasandra, R T Nagar Post, (Near DR.Ambedkar Medical College), Bengaluru – 560032 Karnataka **Also at,** Plot No. 178-A2 & 179-A, KIADB Industrial Area, Vasanthanarasapura 1st Phase, Nagenahalli Post, Kora Hobli, Tumkur – 572 128 **2) Mr Mohan Suresh (Managing Director and Guarantor)** Flat No 604, Block No.E-2, Unit No.WH-87, VI Floor, Sri Ram White House VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bengaluru 560 032 **Also at:** A 1501, Vaishnavi Terrace, Dollars Colony JP Nagar 4th Phase Bengaluru 560 078 Karnataka **3) Mrs. Surekha Suresh (Director and Guarantor)** Flat No 604, Block No.E-2, Unit No.WH-87, VI Floor, Sri Ram White House VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bengaluru 560 032 **Also at** A 1501, Vaishnavi Terrace, Dollars Colony JP Nagar 4th Phase Bengaluru 560 078 Karnataka **4) Mr M Sanjeev (Guarantor)** No 359, 17th A Cross, 26th Main Road, J P Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078	**Rs.44,48,03,898/-** (Rupees Forty Four Crore Forty Eight Lakhs Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight only) as on **17.04.2024** plus further interest thereon and other expenses with direct and indirect liabilities due to Canara Bank from **M/s Technospark Industries** India Pvt Ltd represented by Directors/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors **Mr. Mohan Suresh, Mrs. Surekha Suresh and Mr. M Sanjeev.**	**Property No.1 :** All that piece and parcel of property in the name of **Mr. M Sanjeev** being a portion of land in Survey No 45/3A of erstwhile Kaval Byrasandra Village measuring 18 1/2 guntas covered for residential purpose vide orders of Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District dated 17.08.1987 vide B.DIS.ALN:SR (N) 63/86, 87 later 10 guntas of land modified for industrial purpose vide orders dated 11.08.1988 under reference no B.DIS.ALN.SR 1/1988-89 now within the limit of BBMP and bearing Muncipal No 23 (Old No 45/3), PID no 95-50-23, New PID No 032-W0301-12 situated at 1st Main Road, Muniswamappa Layout, Kaval Byrasandra, RT Nagar Bengaluru and entire plot measuring 18 1/2 guntas or 20,146.5 square feet and **bounded on the East by** Land belonging to Chikkaputtanna, **West By** Road leading to Doddanna's Land, **North By** Land belonging to Appiahanna's Sons, **South by** Land belonging to Munishamappa @ Bhoomanna and Road **Property No.2 :** All that piece and parcel of land and building existing and / or to be constructed there on in Sri Ram White House Apartment Complex House No WH-37, in Block AIII on the fifth floor, Apartment No 501, Survey No 37 located at VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bangalore-32, together with easementary and appurtments thereto in the name of Mrs. Surekha Suresh and Mr. Mohan Suresh, and **bounded as follows:- East by-** Storm Water drain, **West by** BDA Road, **North by** Remaining portion of Property bearing Sy No 37, pertaining to White House Project, **South by** Private Property **Property No.3 : Item No.1:** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 1** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the ground floor of the multistoried building known as 'FAMILY YMCA" constructed in the property bearing No 57/4, PID No 92-30-57/4 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road, **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road, **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road, **South-** Miller Road and Premises No 56, Miller Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church) **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 2** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the first floor of the multistoried building known as "FAMILY YMCA" constructed in the property bearing No 57/5, PID No 92-30-57/5 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road, **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road, **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road, **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church **Item No.3:** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 3** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the second floor of the multistoried building known as 'FAMILY YMCA" constructed in the property bearing No 57/6, PID No 92-30-57/6 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road, **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road, **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road, **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church **Property No.4 :** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 4**, in the name of M/s Technospark Industries India Private Ltd, in the 3rd floor, admeasuring Super Built up area of 1430 square feet and 100 square feet land in the back yard to erect lift in the multistoried building known as "Family YMCA" constructed in the property bearing Muncipal No 57, PID No 92-30-57, situated at Millers Road, within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division number 47) Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road & site nos 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5 and 1/6, Bore Bank Road, **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road, Premises No 38/B, 38/K, 38/J, 38/G, 38/H and Millers Road, the last four premises situated on the New Road Running near premises number 38/B, Benson Cross and Cottage Belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander. **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road & Cottage belonging to Mr.Abdul Wajid and another., **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road **Property No.5 :** Property No.152500900601920013, Plot No. 178-A2 & 179-A, Sy. No.50, Khata No. 37/37/178/A2/179/A, Vasanthanarasapura Induatrial Area, Nagenahalli village, Kora Hobli, Tumkur	20.02.2025 – 11:00 P M to 12.00 pm	**Property No.1 : Reserve Price:** Rs.11,20,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.1,12,00,000/- **Property No.2 : Reserve Price:** Rs.1,53,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.15,30,000/- **Property No.3 : Reserve Price:** Rs.3,97,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.39,70,000/- **Property No.4 : Reserve Price:** Rs.1,29,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.12,90,000/- **Property No.5 : Reserve Price:** 7,17,00,000.00 **EMD:** 71,70,000.00 on or before 19.02.2025 till 5.00 pm.	1) Multiplies of Rs.2,00,000/- **Encumbrance(s):** Not Known to the Bank

Other terms and conditions

a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website Https://baanknet.com/ Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
b. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer .
c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
d. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (E-bkray/Baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.
e. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 19.02.2025-5.00 PM, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand OR Email.
i. Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
iii. Bid Form.
The intending bidders should register their names at portal https://baanknet.com/ and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider, M/s.PSB Alliance (E bkray/Baanknet) - e- mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com
EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
f. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs.2,00,000/-.The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
g. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. This amount shall be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM II Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM II Branch, A/c. No. 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0006298.
h. For sale proceeds of Rs.50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
i. All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
j. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
k. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
l. Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
For further details contact Chief Manager, Canara Bank , ARM Branch-2- (080-25310181) e-mail id – cb6298@canarabank.com OR the service provider M/s.PSB Alliance(E bkray/baanknet) - e- mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION / CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place: Bangalore | Date: 03.02.2025
Sd/-, Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Plastic items collected and arranged on a beach in Hamilton, Canada. JAS MIN/UNSPLASH

The promises and problems of using bacteria against plastic

Plastic waste has driven biologists to look for sustainable solutions. Some of them study bacteria that can chew up plastics; others work directly with enzymes that can clean up the waste. Multiple scientists have turned into entrepreneurs, starting companies to use their solutions on a larger scale

Rohini Subrahmanyam

During her time in a drug discovery lab, structural biologist Kavyashree Manjunath first started thinking about how much plastic her group used, even for a single experiment. From the smallest of tips used to draw solutions to pipettes, bottles, and more – the plastic waste from her lab alone was enough to shock the average environment-friendly scientist. If they stopped to think about it the way she had.

One slightly comforting thought is that the plastic is recycled. But Manjunath found that that's not always the case. "Over a period of 65 years, since the large-scale production of plastic started, almost 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic has been produced," she said, quoting a 2017 *Science Advances* study. "Out of this, less than 10% alone is recycled. Almost 4.9 billion tonnes are there in the environment, in some form or other."

In their own fields

The immense amounts of plastics lying around choking our planet has driven multiple biologists to look for sustainable solutions in their own fields. Some of them are working on bacteria that can chew up plastics; others work directly with enzymes that can clean up the waste. Multiple scientists, including Manjunath, have turned into entrepreneurs, starting companies to use their solutions on a larger scale.

But the field is still very nascent, with most labs and companies still in the early discovery process. Biodegrading the tonnes of plastic we have generated – and will generate in the years to come – is the goal. But like most things in science, the path to success is long and arduous. How long the methods take to degrade plastic and the kinds of plastic they can act on remain some of the major bottlenecks to get across.

Delving into past work, Manjunath discovered there are natural enzymes that can break down the highly abundant polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a polyester found in many kinds of plastic items. Since Kohei Oda and his team at the Kyoto Institute of Technology first discovered the bacterium *Ideonella sakaiensis*, which breaks PET down using two enzymes, multiple groups have worked on isolating and improving those enzymes to try and degrade plastic efficiently.

But most of these natural enzymes take several months to years to work. "I thought, 'can these enzymes be engineered to break down PET much faster so that it can be used at a large scale in industry?'" Manjunath said.

To develop these enzymes, she founded Apratima Biosolutions, a start-up incubated at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (CCAMP), Bengaluru. One enzyme they developed can break down 90% of PET waste in 17 hours, into products like terephthalic acid and ethylene glycol, which can be purified and used again.

She and her team are now working on making the enzymes even faster and cheaper. Once the technology is ready, her plan is to partner with the PET recycling industry to help scale it up. "The main thing is the speed, because if it takes some 10 days or something, it's not feasible, right?"

'Really fascinated'

Degrading PET waste as quickly as possible is one part of the problem; there are many other kinds of problematic plastics out there. Some scientists are using microbes to directly degrade the plastic. These methods are slower but, depending on the versatility of the microbes involved, can offer some advantages.

Sukanya Punthambaker and Vaskar Gnyawali, former researchers at the Wyss Institute at Harvard University and co-founders and CEO and Chief Scientific Officer of Breaking Inc., developed such an approach. They discovered a bacterium called X-32 that degrades PET as well as polyolefins, found in some packaging materials and polyamides like nylon.

"Polyolefins have one of the toughest carbon-carbon bonds to break, so we were really fascinated that this one microbe can do all three major plastic types," Punthambaker said.

As of now, it takes the microbe 22 months to reduce these forms of plastic to carbon dioxide, water, and biomass. They are currently working on figuring out the enzymes involved so they can isolate them and edit their genes in a way to improve their speed and efficiency.

They also plan to test whether their microbe can be scaled up for use at an industrial level.

The biological approach

Apart from companies, academic researchers are also finding biological solutions to get rid of plastic. University of California San Diego nanoengineering professor Jon Pokorski is one of them. He is studying ways to make biodegradable plastic from scratch. He recently reported a method to make thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), a commercial plastic found in memory foam, footwear, and foot mats, but infused with heat-resistant bacterial spores.

Pokorski and his team first evolved heat-resistant spores, made of *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria, in the lab. Then they incorporated the spores into the plastic; the spores can survive the high temperatures of plastic production and remain dormant in normal conditions. But as soon as the plastic is in a compost, the spores become active and start eating. Based on their findings, the bacteria took about five months to degrade 90% of the strips of TPU when they were in a moist, nutrient-rich compost environment ideal for their activation.

> Over a period of 65 years, since the large-scale production of plastic started, almost 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic has been produced. Out of this, less than 10% has been recycled. Almost 4.9 billion tonnes are present in the environment, in some form or other

The longer time may be a trade-off but Pokorski believes using the live-bacteria approach to degrade plastic is more amenable to scaling up than using pure enzymes.

"Purifying an enzyme is quite a challenge, especially purifying enough of it to satisfy the problem of millions of tonnes of plastic every year," Pokorski said. "I would argue that our solution is a much more viable solution for scaling. Because you're not relying on a single enzyme to perform its function; you're relying on something that's going to replicate."

Currently, at the academic lab scale they have tested, they needed very small amounts of spores for about a kilogram of plastic, and adding the spores improved the mechanical properties of the plastic as well.

"Like rebar reinforces concrete, the spores serve as a reinforcing additive to the polymer," Pokorski explained. "Ideally the plastic will either last longer or you could use less plastic because it's a better product."

However, he thinks consumer acceptance could be a challenge. "I don't know how regulatory agencies would feel about bacteria in plastics," he said. "The bacteria that are used are pretty harmless, but you never know, right?"

The rate-limiting step

Another advantage of using bacteria to break down plastic, according to biomolecular engineer Nathan Crook, is one can then evolve them to become more efficient. At North Carolina State University, Crook discovered a way to attach the two previously discovered PET-degrading enzymes onto the surface of a very fast-growing bacteria called *Vibrio natriegens* and use it to eat up plastic as it would eat any other carbon source. They are now working on evolving it in the lab in a way that it can break plastics down faster.

"The enzymes that break down the plastic are the rate-limiting step," Crook said. "If you have an organism where the only way it can survive is to break down plastic, it's going to find a way to mutate its enzyme so that they're really good at breaking down plastic."

But Manjunath, who works with enzymes, thinks scaling them up is not an issue. "There are a lot of fermentation industries which can produce the enzyme in large quantities," she said. The challenges she anticipates instead are whether the enzyme can be reused and the amount of PET waste loading they will need to optimise.

"For example, if you have a 10-litre reactor, how much PET waste can you load into it?" she asked. "Because the less you load, the more expensive it becomes, so you have to make sure the technology is able to handle large quantities of PET waste at a given time."

Another major challenge is to make sure the enzymes can degrade different kinds of PET waste – even the highly crystalline variety. Most enzymes in use now target PET used in packaging materials, but not the ones found in the pesky plastic bottles.

'See the plastic gone'

Despite its challenges, some leading scientists and companies still prefer the enzyme approach. Greg Beckhamm, a senior researcher at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in the US and his team worked on improving one of the PET-degrading enzymes, such that it could also degrade the crystalline PET in water bottles.

Carbios, a French company that's one of the giants in the plastic-degrading business, has also engineered a highly efficient and heat-stable PET-degrading enzyme. Heating the plastic makes it easier to degrade, so the company worked on making the enzymes heat-stable to increase its speed of action.

According to a 2020 *Nature* paper, their enzyme takes 10 hours to degrade 90% of PET waste. The broken-down components can also be used as raw materials for fresh bottles, leading to a circular PET economy. They are now planning on building a large PET recycling plant to degrade plastic at a much larger scale but have now postponed it due to a delay in funding.

"It takes time because this is a very new technology in this particular domain, right?" said Manjunath. "But I think these kinds of solutions are very essential."

According to Crook, it need not only be a company that does the job of clearing up the plastic polluting the environment. "Maybe there's a non-profit that takes on this thing and tries to clean things up, or a governmental organisation that does this at a loss, because it's so expensive to clean up all the plastic," he said.

"I want to see the plastic gone in some way. Maybe it's our [bacterial] strain or somebody else's. At the moment, we're open to a variety of things."

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist in Bengaluru. roh.subb@gmail.com)

NASA scientists prepare a return capsule containing a sample collected from the asteroid Bennu in October 2020 by the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft shortly after it touched down in a desert in Utah, U.S., on September 24, 2023. NASA/REUTERS

Life's building blocks found in asteroid samples

Reuters

Rock and dust samples retrieved by NASA from the asteroid Bennu exhibit some of the chemical building blocks of life, according to research that provides some of the best evidence to date that such space rocks may have seeded early earth with the raw ingredients that fostered the emergence of living organisms.

The US space agency's robotic OSIRIS-REx spacecraft in 2020 collected samples from a near-earth asteroid, a rocky remnant of a larger celestial body that had formed near the dawn of the solar system roughly 4.5 billion years ago. The samples were delivered to earth in 2023 by a parachute inside a capsule released by OSIRIS-REx that landed in the Utah desert.

Two analyses of the samples were published on January 29.

One, in the journal *Nature Astronomy*, found the samples contained a diverse mixture of organic compounds. And the other, in the journal *Nature*, reported the samples contained minerals formed when salty water evaporated on Bennu's parent body, the type of wet environment where prebiotic organic chemistry may have brewed.

Present in the samples were 14 of the 20 amino acids, which make proteins, and all five nucleobases, the genetic components of DNA and RNA in all life on the earth.

"The detection of these key building blocks of life in the Bennu samples supports the theory that asteroids and

The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft collected samples from an asteroid, a rocky remnant of a larger celestial body that had formed near the dawn of the solar system 4.5 billion years ago

their fragments seeded the early earth with the raw ingredients that led to the emergence of life," said astrobiologist Danny Glavin of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, lead author of one of the studies.

"The fact that these chemical building blocks of life can be formed in space and are widespread throughout the solar system increases the chances that life could have started beyond the earth," Glavin added.

A nucleobase is a nitrogen-containing compound that stores genetic information. DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and RNA (ribonucleic acid) are biomolecular cousins that are fundamental molecules in cell biology. DNA contains an organism's genetic code. RNA carries genetic information it receives from the DNA, putting this information into practice.

The Bennu organic compounds all have been identified previously in meteorites that have landed on the earth. But there have been lingering questions because these meteorites could have been contaminated by terrestrial sources. The Bennu samples were obtained directly from an asteroid and were kept pristine.

Bennu's icy parent body, perhaps about 100 km in diameter, appears to have formed in the outer solar system and was later destroyed, possibly 1-2 billion years ago. The fragments then formed Bennu and other rocky pieces.

Early in its history, some of the ice inside the parent body apparently melted and formed brine. The minerals formed in the evaporation of this brine had never previously been detected in meteorites that landed on the earth.

The researchers did not find evidence of actual DNA or RNA in the samples.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Mittaganahalli landfill inspected

Upalokayuktas direct officials to prepare action plan to resolve problems faced by residents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Upalokayuktas K.N. Phaneendra and B. Veerappa on Monday conducted an inspection of the Mittaganahalli waste dumping yard, where nearly 380 to 400 garbage trucks unload waste from across Bengaluru everyday. They directed the officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to resolve the problems aired by the residents living in the vicinity.

The visit, attended by officials from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd., the local panchayat, and other agencies, aimed to address the mounting concerns of residents over pollution and health hazards.

The Mittaganahalli landfill in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

During the inspection, residents voiced their grievances about the unbearable stench, increased presence of flies and mosquitoes, and the impact on children's health. They also raised concerns about contamination of the nearby lake and the alarming number of birds, including eagles, scavenging in the area.

Following discussions, BBMP officials were instructed by the Upalokayukas to take immediate remedial measures and submit a comprehensive action plan to resolve the crisis. Additionally, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) was directed to conduct environmental tests on the soil, air, and water quality around the landfill and propose corrective actions.

All officials have been given a 15-day deadline to submit detailed reports assessing the situation and outlining the necessary interventions. Residents were urged to cooperate with authorities to ensure effective monitoring and resolution of the issues. The visit underscores growing concerns over Bengaluru's waste management and highlights the urgent need for sustainable solutions.

BBMP orders probe

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has appointed Special Commissioner (Health) Suralkar Vikas Kishor as an investigation officer to probe alleged irregularities pertaining to billing of solid waste management in the Gandhi Nagar division.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Monday issued an order appointing Mr. Kishor to probe the matter. He has been directed to rope in officials and augment necessary resources to probe the case. The order came after former BBMP councillor N.R. Ramesh filed a complaint with the civic body.

In the complaint, it is alleged that a junior health inspector from West Zone colluded with some unauthorised persons and made payments to the tune of ₹2 crore in the last three years. The payments were made for waste collection from homes and transportation without bringing it to the notice of the higher officials. It is also alleged that the billing software was hacked.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, FEB. 04	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:22
RISE 11:00	SET 23:56
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 05	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:22
RISE 11:47	SET 00:00
THURSDAY, FEB. 06	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:22
RISE 12:37	SET 00:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	20
Mysuru	33	17
Bengaluru	32	17

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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One dead as car plunges into canal

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A man died and two others were feared drowned after a car they were travelling in veered off the road and plunged into the Visvesvaraya Canal near Tibbanahalli in Mandya taluk.

Four persons were in the car. They were on their way to Mandya from Pandavapura on Monday afternoon when the driver lost control of the vehicle, which then fell into the canal.

Nayaz, one of the four, managed to escape. The body of another person, identified as Fayaz, was fished out of the canal. The Fire and Emergency Services personnel retrieved the car from the waters. An official statement said the search was on for the remaining two butstrong currents in the 30-foot-deep area were a problem.

Mandy Deputy Commissioner Kumar and SP Mallikarjun Baladandi monitored the rescue. MLA for Mandya P. Ravikumar condoled the death and announced a compensation of ₹1 lakh to the next of kin of the bereaved.

The incident has once again triggered a debate over the absence of safety barriers around the Visvesvaraya Canal. Several lives had been lost in similar incidents.

A committee of officials constituted by the Mandya district administration recommended the construction of safety barriers along waterbodies and the installation of warning signs near accident-prone sites on the roads.

THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Worth of ₹2000 notes still out in public despite withdrawal

6,577 in ₹ crore. The RBI said that 98.15% of the ₹2000 denomination banknotes have been returned, since they were withdrawn from circulation in May 2023. The facility for deposit and/or exchange was available at all bank branches till October 7, 2023. PTI

New railway stations being constructed in Jharkhand

57 Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Jharkhand has been allocated ₹7,306 crore in the Budget to accelerate the development of railways in the State. The construction of the stations amount to ₹2,314 crore. As much as 943 km of rail route has been electrified in Jharkhand since 2014. PTI

Number of people killed in a car bomb explosion in Syria

19 All but one of the deceased were women. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion. It was the seventh car bomb explosion in Manbij in just over a month. Manbij in northeastern Aleppo continues to witness violence even after the downfall of Bashar Assad. PTI

Share of EVs from total vehicles sold in Norway in 2024

96 In per cent. An unparalled number in the world, and close to the country's goal of selling only zero-emission vehicles as of this year. Of the 50 most-sold models, only two were non-electric. By comparison, the share of electric cars in Europe was just 13.6% in the full-year of 2024. AFP

Number of protestors in a rally in Berlin against the far-right

1.6 in lakh. Demonstrators had turned out to denounce the breach by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Germany's unwritten agreement not to work with the far right at the national level, in place since World War II. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Delhi's gender budget: its decline and impact

While freebies and cash transfers, just before the election, can bring in immediate relief to families, what the women voters of Delhi really need are concrete steps that can enable systematic growth in the economic and social empowerment of women

ECONOMIC NOTES

Shabana Mitra
Cledwyn Fernandez
Anjhana Ramesh

There are 71 lakh women voters in Delhi, which is nearly half of the total electorate. Further, women have a high turnout rate as well. So, it is no surprise that all contesting parties provide incentives tailored towards women. These incentives then come to light through the budget. Over the last decade, the overall budget for Delhi has increased from ₹271 billion to ₹760 billion. But, how much of this budget is reserved for women?

Investing in women

Overall, the gender budget of Delhi has witnessed a seven-fold increase from ₹10 billion in 2011-12 to ₹71 billion in 2024-25 (Figure 1). While providing financial assistance to women and child development is essential to reduce the gender gap, it is equally important to invest in other components like, education and health. Investments in education have multiplier effects and lead to long term benefits by generating a highly literate and skilled workforce for the country. Education of women, particularly, can bridge the gender gap in employment and achieve wage parity. What is needed is not freebies but concrete steps that can enable systematic growth in the economic and social empowerment of women.

The neglect towards the education of women by Delhi is concerning. The spending on women's education in the gender budget stood at ₹2 billion in 2011-12, which increased to ₹18 billion in 2024-25. This budget reached its peak in 2017-18 touching ₹24 billion. Since then, the budget allocated for women's education has steadily declined. For the last five years, the education budget has reported a negative growth, with exceptions for 2019-20 and 2023-24 (Figure 2). Another surprising fact is that the education budget made up 54% of the gender budget in 2017-18, but steadily declined to a mere 27% in 2024-25 (Figure 3). Concerningly, there was a massive decline of 9% in the education budget in just the past one year. The decrease is not just in the share, but also in the amount allocated to education (see figure 1), indicating that cash transfers and freebies have become the focus of gender budgets.

Priority for women's education

Education and technical training are major pillars for sustainable long-term growth. A lack of investment in the education sector can have negative spillovers into the labour market. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS, 2023-24), compared to the national average of 45.2%, Delhi's female labour force participation stands at 21%, the lowest in India. While most people in Delhi hold regular salaried jobs according to PLFS (2023-24), most women are working as house helps or cleaners, and men as shopkeepers or salespeople. Clearly, women are working in the lowest end of the skill spectrum. These jobs offer poor pay and low standard of living. Thus, low investments in female education lead to a relatively smaller female workforce, lower skill levels and low paying jobs. Secondly, the lack of a skilled women workforce can also lead to high gender inequalities in the labour force. As of 2023-24, the gender gap in labour force participation for Delhi stands at 51.6 percentage points. Moreover, the gender gap in top roles – legislators, senior managers, and CEOs – is stark, with 94% of these positions being held by men. Women are also under-represented in high skilled jobs, such as technicians and associate professionals. Only 3.8% of the female labour force are in these jobs compared to 10.34% of the male labour force. This points to the fact that investments in education are needed to bridge the gap in the high skilled workforce.

Third, the lack of technical and professional education of women has led to the concentration of women in certain fields. Most women professionals are in the teaching and health sector. It is crucial, therefore, to promote technical education training and professional courses among women to close the gender gaps in various sectors.

Cash transfers are necessary for relief but for empowerment of women, education and training are of utmost importance. Improving the budget for women's education would greatly reduce the gap in the long run.

The writers are with ICRIER, an economic think tank based in Delhi. The views expressed are personal.

Need to focus on education

The neglect towards the education of women by Delhi is concerning. The spending on women's education in the gender budget stood at ₹2 billion in 2011-12, which increased to ₹18 billion in 2024-25. This budget reached its peak in 2017-18. Since then, the budget allocated for women's education has steadily declined.

KUMAR SS

Chart 1: Total gender budget and its share of education

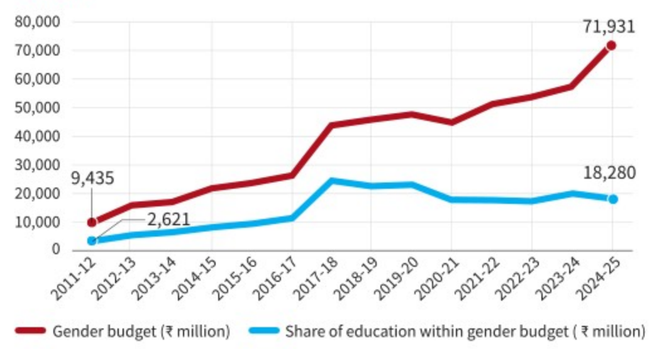


Chart 2: % change in the share of education in the gender budget

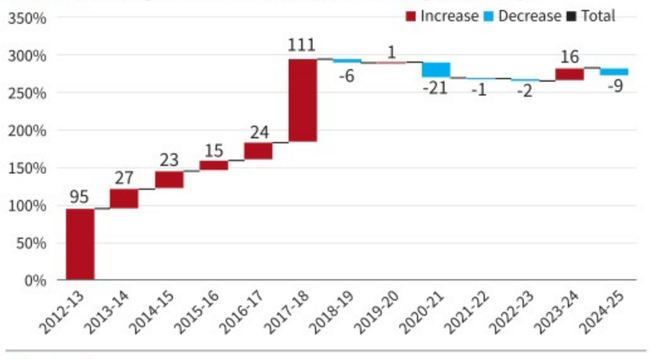
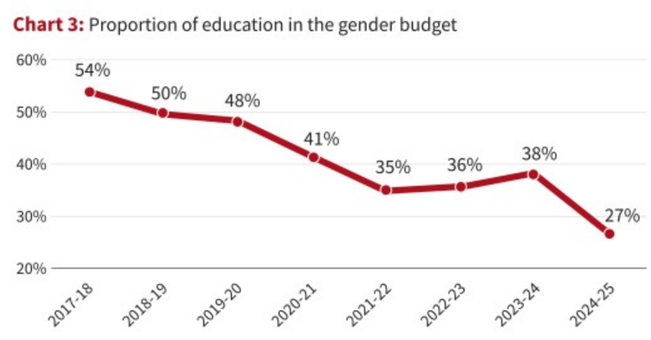


Chart 3: Proportion of education in the gender budget



THE GIST

While providing financial assistance to women and child development is essential to reduce the gender gap, it is equally important to invest in other components like, education and health.

The budget allocated for women's education in Delhi has steadily declined. For the last five years, the education budget has reported a negative growth, with the exceptions for 2019-20 and 2023-24.

The lack of technical and professional education of women has led to the concentration of women in certain fields. Most women professionals are in the teaching and health sector.

How will the govt. produce the required fuel ethanol?

Does India's ethanol distillery industry have the capacity to produce nearly 1,100 crore litres of fuel ethanol? Why have maize imports increased substantially in the past year?

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that India will achieve its target of 20% ethanol blending of petrol in the next two months, at least a year ahead of what was originally planned. This would entail the production of nearly 1,100 crore litres of fuel ethanol in one year.

Where will this come from?

The 1,100 crore litres of fuel ethanol will come from sugar and high grade molasses, Food Corporation of India (FCI) rice, broken rice, and maize. India's ethanol distillery capacity has ramped up to 1,600 crore litres, driven by a range of government incentives and the promise of a stable, lucrative market.

Sugar is expected to provide some 400 crore litres this ethanol year, according to Deepak Ballani, director general of Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association. India had closing sugar stocks of around 80 lakh tonnes in October 2024. The projected sugar production for next year is around 315 lakh tonnes out of which 40 lakh tonnes will go to fuel ethanol. Mr. Ballani said that ethanol for non-fuel uses will come from low grade molasses called C Heavy that don't go into sugar production.

The government recently decided to reduce the price of FCI rice to distilleries from ₹28 to ₹22.5 per kg. The government handout states that some 110 crore litres of ethanol will be produced from FCI rice this ethanol year. This means almost 400 crore litres of fuel ethanol should come from maize. For context, India was producing little or no ethanol from maize until 2020. Besides pure-play grain-based distilleries coming up, some sugar distilleries have modified to dual-feed so in the off-season they can use other feedstock (maize) to produce ethanol.

How is maize playing a role?

India's maize production is just about enough for traditional needs such as for the poultry sector, livestock feed, starch production and some 10% for human consumption. As the government had imposed curbs on allowing sugar and high quality molasses for ethanol production, maize imports started ramping up in April 2024. From April to June, approx. ₹100 crore worth of maize was imported while, for 2023-24, maize imports were approx. $33 million. Ministry of Commerce figures show that a total of $188 million worth of maize was imported from April to November 2024.

The promise of a steady, lucrative ethanol market has meanwhile goaded many farmers to take to maize cultivation across India. The major maize producing States are Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. For the 2024-25 ethanol year, maize output would be some 42 million tonnes out of which nine million can go towards producing the 350 to 400 crore litres of ethanol, H. S. Jat, director ICAR Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ludhiana, said. Citing good prospects for kharif this year, he said importing maize will not be necessary.

Since 2020-21. when ethanol production was almost all sugar-based, maize production had increased by nearly six million tonnes in three years, for potential ethanol use.

As things stand now, maize is cultivated in 10% more area at a higher yield, says Mr. Jat who also expects some diversion from traditional maize uses since supplying to ethanol is more lucrative for farmers. On whether that won't disrupt the market, Mr. Jat says DDGS (Distiller's Dried Grains with Solubles), a byproduct of ethanol, can be used for poultry. The long-term sustainability of fuel ethanol would depend on whether the switch to ethanol and stress on maize has a negative impact on production of other foodgrains. Mr. Jat estimates that 100 crore litres of fuel ethanol translates to ₹6,000 crore savings on oil imports and the money going into the internal economy including to farmers. For context, India's yearly oil import bill is some ₹10.5 lakh crore.

THE GIST

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that India will achieve its target of 20% ethanol blending of petrol in the next two months.

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INBRIEF

Kristu Jayanti College hosts Vichaarmanthan

Kristu Jayanti College on Monday hosted Vichaarmanthan, an interactive session with global visionaries including K. Sivan, former Secretary of the Department of Space and former Chairman of ISRO, who was the chief guest.

During the session, Dr. Sivan shared his insights into India's space advancements and the future of aeronautics, emphasising the role of ISRO in serving humanity.

He inspired students by encouraging them to embrace challenges and risks.

Reflecting on his leadership of the GSLV project, Dr. Sivan said, "The skill of a pirate is found only when he sails in troubling times," urging students to take on difficult projects and turn them into successes. Dr. Sivan's address further highlighted the importance of perseverance and innovation in overcoming obstacles.

7th edition of 'Open Heart' at St. Joseph's today

St. Joseph's University will host the 7th edition of its flagship event, Open Heart, on Tuesday, at 11 a.m.

The event aims to inspire students, faculty, and guests with the stories and wisdom of influential leaders, following the motto, "They were, We are, You will be."

This year's distinguished guests include Aisshwarya D.K.S. Hegde, entrepreneur and philanthropist, and Samyukta Hornad, actress and environmental advocate.

The programme will take place at the university's Lalbagh Road campus.

Master plan update for KIA approved

The key components of the $2 billion expansion over the next five years are T1 refurbishment, the second phase of T2, reservation of space for T3

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

A master plan update for the Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) next phase of development has been approved by the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) board which will be executed over the next five years at a cost of $2 billion.

Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Operating Officer, BIAL, said that the approval from the board was received in November 2024 and the idea behind the master plan is to evaluate forecasts from both short- to medium-term and long-term perspectives, projecting capacity as every master plan does.

"This master plan similarly assesses forecasts and evaluates facility requirements based on projected demand over the next 10 to 15 years. By this time, we anticipate reaching the saturation capacity of the two-runway system, ensuring that we are prepared to deliver the necessary capacity to meet this demand at the right moment," he told *The Hindu*.

All major airports carry out master plan updates once in about five years and KIA's previous master plan update was carried out in 2018-19. Mr. Raghunath said that BIAL conducted a comprehensive traffic forecast to assess the potential of the two-runway system.

The runway at Kempegowda International Airport at Devanahalli near Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

"Our goal through the master plan update was to make sure we have enough infrastructure on the ground to deal with over 100 million annual passengers and 1.5 million metric tonnes of cargo and reserve the land and space for that," Mr. Raghunath said.

The key components of the $2 billion expansion over the next five years are the Terminal 1 refurbishment, the second phase of Terminal 2, reservation of space for Terminal 3.

Also, part of the expansion plans are construction of the western cross taxiway and associated taxiways, apron work and construction of over 230 stands from the present 140 stands.

"From a land side perspective, we are making sure we have the best circulation both from the western and eastern side, reserving space for a future tunnel coming from the eastern side to connect with the central terminal area and making sure that besides the metro connectivity, which is expected sometime in 2026, that we have a corridor for K-RIDE and suburban rail to come in," he said.

Automated people mover planned

BIAL has also planned for an automated people mover between the terminals if there is high passenger growth. "If there is going to be significant growth beyond 85 million annual passengers, Terminal 3 will be located on the eastern side. So eventually, there will be connectivity with a future automated people mover between the terminals but that will happen only five to seven years down the line," he said.

Upgraded 'Namma BMTC' app launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporsation (BMTC) has successfully migrated its Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVLS) data from a temporary cloud set-up to the Karnataka State Data Centre (KSDC), ensuring enhanced digital infrastructure for commuters, according to BMTC officials.

The migration was completed at midnight on January 31. "BMTC has also rolled out an upgraded version of its mobile application, 'Namma BMTC,' offering improved real-time bus tracking and a more seamless user experience," a senior BMTC official said.

With the update, commuters can receive real-time updates on bus locations and expected arrival times via the Namma BMTC app. FILE PHOTO

The updated app now enables live tracking of over 5,200 BMTC buses, including the latest BS6-compliant and electric buses

The updated app now enables live tracking of over 5,200 BMTC buses, including the latest BS6-compliant and electric buses. This ensures that commuters receive real-time updates on bus locations and expected arrival times.

"With the migration to KSDC servers, the app benefits from enhanced data security, faster processing speeds, and improved uptime, making tracking more reliable. The interface has also been redesigned for better navigation, allowing users to plan their journeys more efficiently," official explained.

CHRIST appointed UNAI SDG 5 Hub Chair

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) has been appointed as the new United Nations Academic Impact Sustainable Development Goals Hub Chair for SDG 5: Gender Equality.

The university will lead the SDG 5 Hub from January 2025 to December 2027. As part of the UNAI initiative, which includes over 1,700 institutions globally, the university will contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through education, research, and strategic partnerships. The UNAI initiative, launched in 2010, aims to promote human rights, sustainability, and conflict resolution.

"This appointment is in alignment with the university's commitment to sustainability. Our distinctive SDG Cell - headed by Leena James, has been a pioneering initiative, driving innovative approaches to the SDG through education, impactful research, and action. This recognition further strengthens our resolve to advance gender equality and foster transformative change," said Fr. Joseph CC, Vice-Chancellor of the university.

Mental health event in city on February 8

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

YourDOST, an organisation providing mental well-being solutions, is organising its annual event, 'The Festival of Joy 2025', on February 8, at SAP Labs, Bengaluru.

The speaker line-up at the event includes Amish Tripathi, bestselling author and diplomat, C.R. Chandrashekar, Padma Shri Awardee, founder of Samadhana Counselling Centre, Shyam Bhat, founder of Seraniti.com, Deepak Saini, convener of Longevity India, professor, IISc, and others.

Richa Singh, co-founder and CEO of YourDOST, said, "The Festival of Joy is not just a celebration, but a call to action for individuals, organisations, and educational institutions to recognise that wellbeing is not a luxury but a fundamental driver of progress."

With India losing ₹1.1 trillion annually in productivity due to mental health and well-being challenges, the event aims to address the space around it and create a society where well-being is an everyday conversation, said a release.

The event will bring together a group of visionaries, corporate leaders, academicians, change makers and policymakers to discuss, educate and inspire action on the fundamentals of well-being, the science behind it.

Further information can be found on https://thefestivalofjoy.org/.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE II ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALAURU

O.S. No. 1218 of 2023

BETWEEN : K.C. PRAMOD MOULI, S/o Sri (Late) K.S. Chandramouleswara, aged 33 years, R/o. No. 21, 3rd Cross, behind Vijaya Bank, Shivananda Nagara, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072.
...PLAINTIFF

AND : 1. Smt. N.R. Lakshmi, Wife of B. Narayana, Aged 58 years, R/o. No.1, BWSSB Road, Hosaguddadahalli Layout, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560026.

2. Smt. Unm Krishna Wife of S.B. Krishna Aged 52 years. R/o Sorekayidoddi Village, Satanur Hobli & Post, Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Dist.

3. Smt. Devamma Wife of Sri Basavaraju, Aged 62 years, R/o No. 23, 5th Cross, 12th Main, T.R. Shamanna Nagara, Sri Nagara, Bengaluru - 560050.

3(a) BASAVARAJU husband of late Smt. Devamma, fathers name not known, Major by age,

3(b) MANJUNATH Son of Sri Basavaraju and late Smt. Devamma, Major by age, Both Residing at No.23, 5th Cross, 12th Main, T.R. Shamanna Nagara, Srinagara, Bengaluru- 560 050.

4. Smt. V. Manjula Wife of Sri T. Venkatesh, Aged 43 years, R/o No. 350, 2nd Cross, 17th Main Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Muneshwara Block, Bengaluru - 560026.

5. Smt. Jayamma, Aged 75 years, Wife of Sri Ramalingaiah, R/o No. 1507, 18th Main Road, Muneshwara Block, Avalahalli, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560026. ...DEFENDANTS

NOTICE ON IA DATED 10/01/2025 TO PROPOSED DEFENDANT Nos. 3(c) - LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF LATE Smt. DEVAMMA (DEFENDANT No.3)

3(c). SMT. SAVTTHA, Major, Daughter of Late. Devamma, Residing at No. 23, 5th Cross, 12th Main, T.R. Shamanna Nagara, Srinagara, Bengaluru-560 050.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit seeking inter alia a declaration that the sale deeds dated 15.03.2006, 21.08.2006 and 31.07.2006 executed in favor of Defendant Nos.1, 2 & 3 in respect of the suit Schedule B Properties are invalid, null and void and not binding on the Plaintiff. Upon the death of Smt. Devamma, the Defendant No. 3, Plaintiff has filed necessary applications to bring her legal representative on record.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the II Additional Senior Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed to answer to the same **on the 17th day of February 2025 at 11.00 A.M.** Failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Survey No.55/3 of Challaghatta Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 2 Acres 28 Guntas **and bounded on:- East by :** Private property (earlier belongs to Venkatappa); **West by :** Private property (earlier belongs to Hanumaiah **North by :** Govt. Road, **South by:** Govt. Road.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

Item No. 1: All the piece and parcel of the Site No. 59, Khata No.55/3, Challaghatta Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.feet **and bounded on:- East by:** 25 Feet Road; **West by:** Private property, **North by:** Site No, 58; **South by:** Site No. 60.

Item No. 2 : All the piece and parcel of the Site No. 64, Katha No. 55/3, Challaghatta Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.feet **and bounded on :- East by :** 25 Feet Road; **West by :** Private property; **North by :** Site No. 63; **South by :** Site No. 65.

Item No. 3 : All the piece and parcel of the Site No. 28, Khata No.55/3, Challaghatta Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.feet **and bounded on :- East by :** Road, **West by :** Site No.51, **North by :** Site No. 27, **South by** : Site No. 29.

Item No. 4 : All the piece and parcel of the Site No. 24, Khata No.55/3, Challaghatta Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.feet **and bounded on :- East by :** Site No. 3; **West by :** Road; **North by :** Site No. 25; **South by :** Remaining southern portion of the same property.

Item No. 5 : All the piece and parcel of the Site No. 25, Khata No.55/3, Challaghatta Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.feet **and bounded on :- East by :** Site No. 3, **West by :** 25 Feet Road; **North by :** Site on southern portion of Site No.26; **South by :** Site No. 24.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 01.02.2025.

By Order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural Dist., Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff :
M/s. SUNDARASWAMY & RAM DAS,
Advocates
No.24, "Keshava Nivas", Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase A Residential Flat/Apartment bearing **S-03** on the **Second Floor (Three Bedrooms)** E PID No.2018893788, in the residential complex known as **'SHRISHTI ENCLAVE'** constructed on the schedule 'A' property, having a **super built-up area of 1404 square feet** (which is inclusive of the floors, ceiling and walls between the apartments and proportionate share in all common areas) together with one car parking space in Basement floor/Slit Floor. Apartment along with **370 Sq.feet** of undivided right, title, interest and share in all that piece and parcel of Property bearing BMP No.3 (Old No.324/1-Site Nos.3,4,11 & 12) PID No.84- 105-3/8, situated at 1st Cross Road, Lal Bahadur Nagar, B.Channasandra, BMP Ward No.84, Bangalore, measuring East to West 60 feet, North to South 80 feet they having acquired an undivided share (ie., in the Schedule A Property), From its owner **Mr. SAGAR SATALKAR,** Son of Sri. Sumantrao Satalkar, Persons having any right/interest over the said property may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary evidence within 10 days from the date of this publication to the undersigned.

Sd/-
K.V.CHALAPATHI ASSOCIATES
Advocates,
No. 68, Ground Floor, 1st 'H' Main Road, Kasturinagar, Bangalore - 560 043.
M:7259677796/ 9945103698/ 080-42191053
Date: 04.02.2025 Place: Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the **NOTICE** of the General Public, that **Shri. Srikanth Dodla,** aged about 46 years, s/o. Dodla Raghupathi Naidu and Smt. Rekha Vulava aged about 44 years, w/o. Srikanth Dodla both R/at Villa No. 28, Hebron Enclave, Helahalli Main Road, K.R. Puram, Bangalore – 560 036, are the full and absolute owners of Property bearing Site No. 38 in the layout known as "Cascading Meadows" of Maragondanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased from previous owner/s/ Asgarali Zainuddin Kathawala and Fakhruddin Z Valikarimwala @ Fakhruddin Jenuddin Valikarimwala.

It is further notified to the General Public that the earlier owner/s/Asgarali Zainuddin Kathawala and Fakhruddin Z Valikarimwala @ Fakhruddin Jenuddin Valikarimwala had acquired the scheduled property from their previous owner/Errol Fernandes represented by his attorney holder Austin Roach under Sale Deed dated 23/09/1998 registered as Document No. 4636/1998-99 of Book – I in the office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bangalore, is lost. A Police complaint in this regard is lodged with the Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost Report No. 1452379/2025 dated 29/01/2025. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below-mentioned address and they will be compensated accordingly.

The General Public is hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk and cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against Srikanth Dodla and Rekha Vulava nor the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Property bearing **Site No. 38,** Old House List Khatha No. 147, in the layout known as **"CASCADING MEADOWS"** situated at **Maragondanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring Eastern Side **60 feet,** Western side **60 feet,** Northern side **95 feet** and Southern side **95 feet,** in all measuring **5700 square feet** and bounded on: -

East by : House Site No. 43;
West by : Private Road;
North by : Private Road &
South by : House Site Nos. 39 & 40:

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate, Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070

Textile Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

ESTD. : 1963

Administrative Office : No.16, 1st 'A' Main Road, Sudhamanagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
Ph: 48521054; Email: textilecbl@gmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Appendix IV (Rule 8-(1))

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bengaluru under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in compliance of Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the following borrowers/mortgagor/surety to repay the amounts mentioned in the notice and interest thereon, outstanding in the loan accounts at Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Surety/Mortgagers in the following accounts having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Surety/Mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd., for amount and interest thereon & other charges.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Name of Surety	Description of the Property Mortgaged (With Boundaries)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Out/Standing as on the Date of Demand Notice Rs. Ps.
1	**MAIN BRANCH:** **RAKSHITHA R IPL-EMI-164**	Ramesh S N Lokesh N Sumithra R	All the Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing No. 7/1. Northern Portion of Old No. 23, and then 27, PID No.28-118-7/1, Situated at Venkusahuji Lane, Chickpet, Bangalore-560053. Measuring East to West 62 feet and North to South 10 ½ feet and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** House of Jnanadevaru, **North by:** Tobugere Gangadhar's Home, **South by:** S.C.Nagaraja Rao's Home.	**13.11.2024**	**30-01-2025**	**Rs.63,29,118/-**
2	**L N PURA BRANCH:** **SUBHASHINI IPL-EMI-103**	Balaji .V	All the Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing No. 219, Municipal No. 34, PID No. 24-28-34, Situated at 3rd Cross, Dayanandanagara, Srirampuram, Bengaluru-560021, Measuring: East to West 12 feet, North to South 19 feet and bounded on: **East by:** Corporation Land, **West by:** Corporation Land, **North by:** Property No. 220, **South by:** Road	**20.11.2024**	**30-01-2025**	**Rs.14,35,881/-**
3	**MAGADI ROAD BRANCH:** **MANIGANDAN G** S/o M Ganesh **IPL-EMI-110**	Mallika .M Uma mageshwari .G	All that Piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 4, Old No. 74, PID No.26-66-4, Situated at 1st Main Road, Avalamma Chatra, (Ward No. 26-Sevashrama) Bangalore -560 023. Measuring East to West 10 feet and North to South 20 feet and bounded on: **East by:** Property bearing No.70, **West by:** Remaining portion of the same property, **North by:** Property bearing No.69, **South by:** Road.	**28.06.2024**	**30-01-2025**	**Rs.11,62,620/-**

Amount paid if any by the above Borrowers after issuance of Possession Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realization/settlement. Borrowers are advised to look into the provisions of Act 13(8) regarding the amount of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 04/02/2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RANJIT Dayanandan, S/o Dayanandan.T, R/at Flat No.211, Aditya Palatial, Dynasty Layout, Near Kensri School, Mariyannapalya, Bengaluru-560024, have changed my minor son's name from Ekansh Dayanandan to Ekansh Ranjit Dayanandan vide affidavit dated 03/02/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

LOST & FOUND

This is to inform that Original Share certificate no 351444, Distinctive Nos from 4117101 to 4119740 and Folio no: 1444 of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd in the name of Late H S Chandrasekhar, address at Krishna Krupa, 329/1,9th Main,2nd Block Jayanagar. Bengaluru-560011 have been lost/misplaced. Mrs Kathyayini Chandrasekhar, spouse of late H S Chandrasekhar has applied for duplicate share certificates. Any person(s) who has/have any claim in respect of the said share certificate (s) should lodge such claim with the company within 15 days of the publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s).

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
Ph: 0487- 2459841, 2459807.
E-mail : purchase@oushadhi.org
P1/123/2024-25 Date: 4-2-2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the supply of Raw materials for the period **February 2025 to 31st March 2025.** Tenders can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.** For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur.

(Sd/-)
Thrissur Managing Director

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE X ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C. AT MYSORE ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 226 OF 2021

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd., A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007. And having branch Office ICICI Bank Ltd., retail Assist Product, 1st Floor, Deekshas Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2,3,4, Ramavilas Road, Mysore- 570024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Natesh. K M, S/o Mahadevaish. P, aged about 39 years, ...Plaintiff
AND:
Sri M. Mahadevappa and others. ...Defendant

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

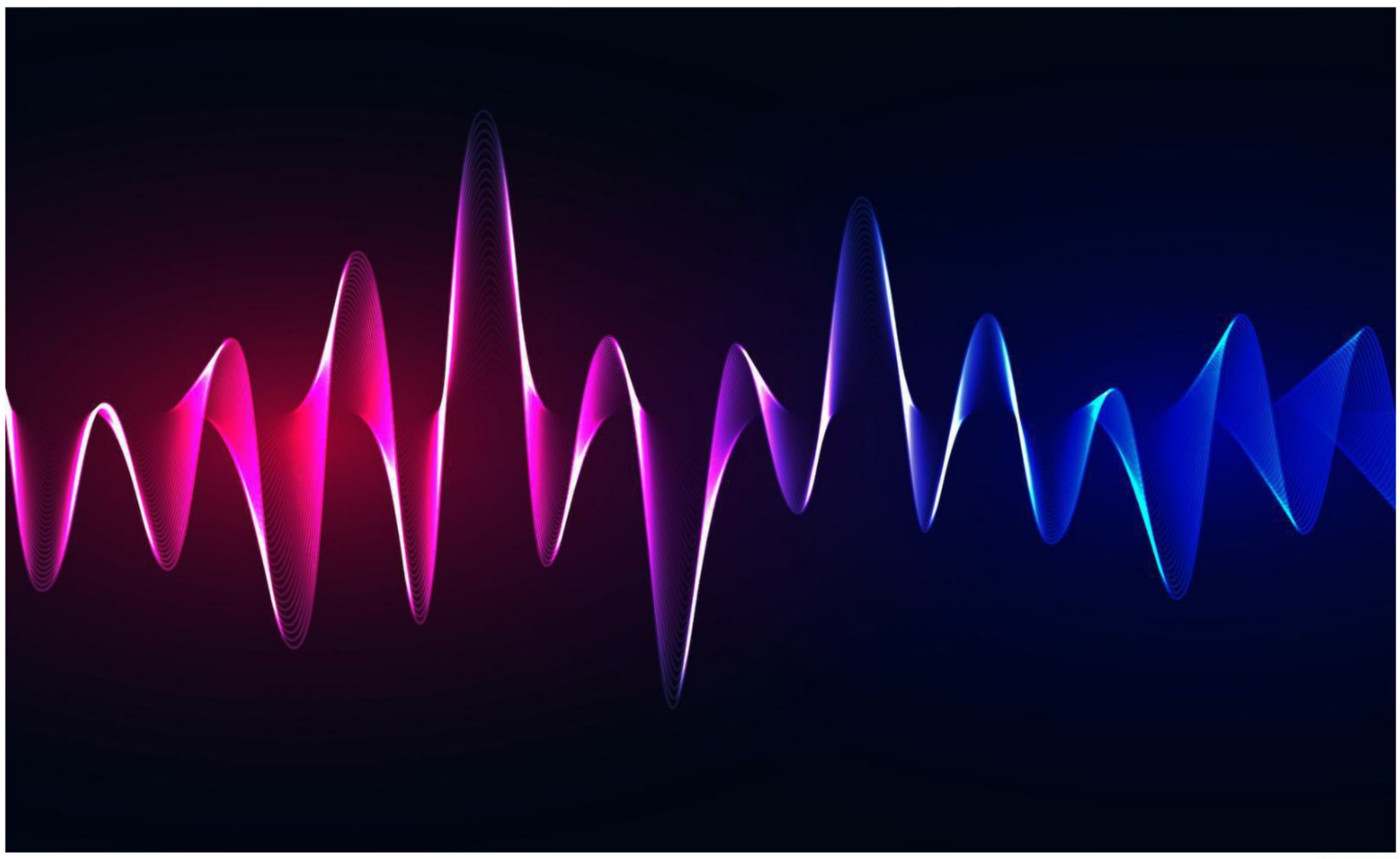
To,
Defendant No 2:
Smt. M.G. Pushpa,
Aged About 42 Years,
W/o M. Mahadevapp,
Both Are R/at. Maduvinahalli Village, Hullahalli Hobli, Nanjangud Taluk,
Mysuru- 571315

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.3,30,978/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by a pleader on on the 06th Day of February, 2025 at 11:00 am to show cause against the sint and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 13th day of January, 2025

By Order of the Court
Asst. Registrar
Mysore

Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No.4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560001.

BUILDING BLOCKS



GETTY IMAGES

On amplifiers: how do they work and what are the different kinds?

Amplifiers have transformed entertainment, astronomy, search and rescue, medical diagnostics, and every human endeavour where some physical change can be converted to an electric signal. Power amplifiers come in multiple classes, each for specific applications

Vasudevan Mukunth

The amplifier remains a transformative invention for being able to receive the human voice and boost it so thousands of people can hear it at once. Without the microphone, politics itself may have evolved differently; the device has been ubiquitous in everything from public protests to political rallies. Amplifiers have also transformed entertainment, astronomy, search and rescue, medical diagnostics, and every human endeavour where some physical change can be converted to an electric signal. For simplicity's sake, let's focus here on audio signals.

What is a microphone?

A microphone is a type of transducer – a device that converts energy in one form to another, in this case from sound to electrical. There are different microphones for use in specific contexts, varying in terms of how they collect sound energy and how they convert it to electric signals.

Microphones in telephones and voice recorders are also called condenser microphones because they use capacitors to transduce audio signals ('condenser' is an old name for capacitors). A simple capacitor consists of two plates facing each other, separated in between by an air gap – or any suitable dielectric material – but connected on either side to a common circuit, including a power source. As the current enters one plate and builds up, it becomes depleted from the other. The difference creates an electric field between the plates that stores energy within the dielectric medium.

The ability of a capacitor to store energy is called its capacitance. A condenser microphone replaces one of the plates with a vibrating diaphragm. When a person speaks into the microphone, the diaphragm vibrates, altering the capacitance, which is converted to audio signals.

How is the sound amplified?

Once an audio signal is available, it is transported to a preamplifier (or preamp). Say there is an audio signal in the form of a varying voltage.

The preamp will acquire the voltage and supply it with more energy from an external power source while minimising noise. The ratio of the output of this process to the input is called the preamp's gain.

The key to minimising noise is a step called impedance-matching. Impedance is a measure of how much a given circuit resists, or impedes, the flow of electric current (in a direct-current circuit, the impedance is equal to the resistance.)

During impedance-matching, the impedance of the preamp's circuit is matched to that of the circuit that emitted the audio signal. If there is a mismatch, the signal will become noisy, reducing the preamp's gain.

The amplification itself is performed by an active component like a transistor.

How is voltage amplified?

A bipolar junction NPN transistor consists of a base, a collector, and an emitter.

First, the small incoming voltage is applied between the base and the emitter – that is, the transistor is forward-biased – such that electrons flow out of the emitter.

The base is configured so that most of the electrons diffuse into the collector, leading to a large collector current. In a typical transistor, the collector current is at least 50-times higher than the base current.

Next, the collector is supplied with a high voltage from an external source, like a battery, through a resistor. When the collector current flows across this resistor, it creates a strong voltage. This voltage when measured at the collector is the output voltage, that is, the amplified version of the input signal.

A signal can be drawn as a sinusoidal wave; an amplified signal will have the same shape but bigger, in this case meaning the voltage swing will be higher.

Before the preamplified signal goes to a loudspeaker, it also passes through the driver and power stages. The driver stage uses transistors to keep the voltage constant while increasing the current while the power stage further increases both the voltage and the current.

Power amplifiers come in multiple classes, each for specific applications. Class A and B amplifiers are used in basic sound systems and small studios. Home theatres and more intensive use cases prefer Class AB amplifiers. Antennae emitting radio-frequency signals at a single carrier frequency use Class C amplifiers whereas public announcement systems use Class D amplifiers.

Some of these groups have sub-classes that, while sharing many of the same features, deviate in particular ones like being able to handle very high power or enabling high-frequency signals.

How is loud sound produced?

The loudness of the sound produced at the loudspeaker is a function of the power of the input signal.

The loudspeaker has three basic components: voice coil, external magnet, and diaphragm. The voice coil is a coil of wire placed within the magnet. When the input voltage is applied across the wire, a large current is produced, which in turn produces a strong magnetic field around the coil. This field interacts with that of the external magnet, causing the coil to move as the input voltage varies.

The coil is connected to the diaphragm and the coil's motion vibrates the diaphragm's membrane, producing sound. The higher the power of the input signal, the louder the sound produced by the diaphragm.

To further enhance this process, the external magnetic field is made stronger, the diaphragm larger, and the input signal more powerful. Loudspeakers can also be built with smaller diaphragms with faster-moving membranes to facilitate high frequency sounds and larger diaphragms to facilitate low frequency ones.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The 67th Annual Grammy Awards took place on February 3. A quiz on the awards and some of the winners

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

Her alter ego is Sasha Fierce. When she was a child, her father made her run while singing so that she would not become exhausted while performing on stage. She made history at the 2023 Grammy Awards and again this year. Name this artist.

QUESTION 2

Which genre of music was not recognised at the Grammy Awards ceremony until 1989?

QUESTION 3

This poet, lyricist, author, and director was born in the Jhelum district of present-day Pakistan. He is known by his pen name. His daughter is a filmmaker. Name this man who won a Grammy Award in 2010 as well as an Academy Award.

QUESTION 4

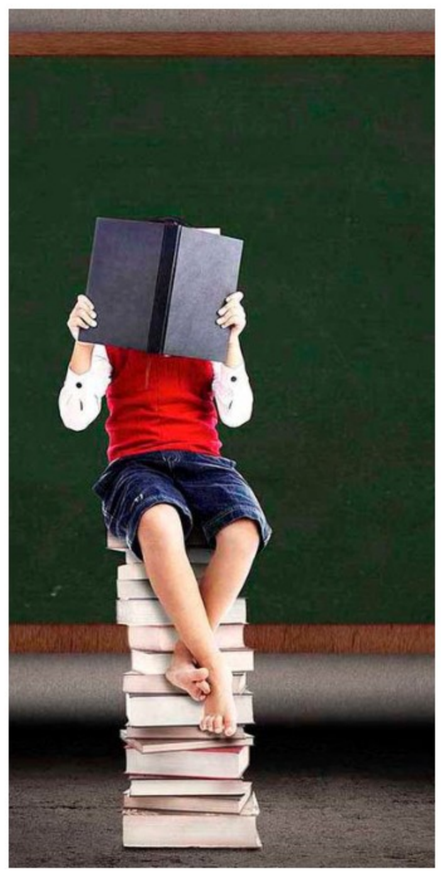
This song was written and sung more than a quarter of a century ago. Using Machine Learning, the song was crafted from the singer's demo and released in 2023. It won a Grammy Award this year. What is the name of the song and the famous band that won the Grammy Award?

QUESTION 5

He won the Pulitzer Prize for Music a few years ago. His stage name used to be K. Dot. Who is this singer who swept all the five categories for which he was nominated this time?

Visual question:
The woman in the photo is seen receiving a Grammy Award. It was her husband's anti-war speech that won him the award posthumously. Name the woman, her husband, and the man presenting the award to her.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the alloy used to make the Grammy trophy. **Ans: Grammium**
2. The names of the four general categories, also called the 'Big Four'. **Ans: Record, album, song, and new artist.**
3. Artists who have won the Big Four in the same year. **Ans: Two; Christopher Cross in 1981 and Billie Eilish in 2020**
4. Name the legendary artist who was the first to win two Album of the Year awards. **Ans: Frank Sinatra**
5. Name the artist with the most number of Grammy wins. **Ans: Beyonce**
Visual: Name this actor/director, his alias and the song which won him Record of the Year and Song of the Year in 2019. **Ans: Donald Glover or Childish Gambino; 'This is America'**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Piyali Tuli| Tito Shiladitya| Sonali Das| Dodo Jayaditya



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"So 'romance' is from Rome. 'Romantic' is from 'Romance'?"

"Yes. 'Romantic' is also used as a noun. It means 'a person who enjoys romantic situations'."

"By the way, what is a 'bottle-neck'?"

"It is the narrow neck of a bottle. 'It is a narrow or restricted stretch of road which causes traffic to slow down or stop. It is also anything that slows down production in a manufacturing process, etc.'
'Bottle-neck' is a widely used expression these days. In a letter to the *London Times*, a writer has pointed out the ways in which bottle-neck has been used by some writers: "In order to illustrate the progress (or whatever it is) of our language I am compiling a brochure on bottlenecks. I shall accordingly be grateful for any significant additions to these examples from recent journalism: (1) 'The biggest bottleneck in housing', meaning the worst, most constricting and presumably narrowest bottleneck. (2) 'Bottlenecks must be ironed out' (leading article in the daily press). (3) 'Bottlenecks ahead' and 'Bottleneck in bottles' (recent headlines). (4) 'The economy of the Ruhr is bound to move within a vicious circle of interdependent bottlenecks.' (5) 'What is planned is actually a series of bottlenecks. The most drastic bottleneck is that of machine tools.' (6) 'One bottleneck... which is particularly far-reaching and decisive.'" The verb 'to bottle-neck' means 'to impede or slow down by creating a bottle-neck'. But don't ever say that there is a big bottle-neck... A big bottle-neck suggests an easy flow rather than a difficult one."

"So 'bottle-necks' create problems."

"When used with care, the expression serves a useful purpose. Do you know something? The other day I saw the word 'padayatra' in the New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (1993)."

"What's the meaning it gives?"

"It says: 'In the Indian sub-continent: a pilgrimage, a political and religious tour or march. (Modern Sanskrit pada, foot + yatra, journey)."

"So it has joined the company of other Indian words like bungalow, chapati, cheroot, chit, coir, copra, curry, juggernaut, jungle, loot, nabob, pajamas, sahib, shampoo, shawl, teak, thug, toddy, veranda, ahimsa, pundit, coolie."

"So many!"

"Many, many more! Let's stop here."

Published in The Hindu on January 31, 1995.

Word of the day

Vituperative:
marked by harshly abusive criticism

Synonym: scathing

Usage: *His emails to him were full of vile and vituperative language.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/vituperativepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vɪˈtjuːpɹətɪv/, /vaɪˈtjuːpɹətɪv/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Countdown to SSLC exam begins, but list of unauthorised schools not ready

We have to work with other departments before putting out the list, says Minister Madhu Bangarappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the SSLC examinations, which will be held from March 21 to April 4, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) is yet to publish the list of unauthorised schools in Karnataka, adding to the worries of students in such schools.

In the previous year, around 5,000 students from private unauthorised schools faced issues with writing SSLC exams. The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) had withheld the draft admission tickets of such students.

This year, the Board had asked students from unauthorised schools to not register for SSLC exams and had asked Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) of the State to submit a list of approved and unauthorised schools for the year.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, speaking to mediapersons after chairing a meeting on SSLC exam 2025 preparedness, in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Speaking at a press conference here on Monday, Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy, said, "From our Department, we have updated everything. There are other departments in play like the Revenue Department for land conversion and Fire and Safety departments. We have to work with other departments before putting out the list. If I harshly decide something, then where would we be able to send all those students?"

There were 993 unauthorised schools in July 2024 according to an answer given by the Minister in the Assembly in July 2024.

He also did not clarify whether students will be allowed to wear hijabs inside examination halls. "I will discuss this with the Home Minister and then he will issue directions on it," he said.

Better results

Following the sharp decline in results during the academic year of 2023-24, when the pass percentage fell to 73.4% from 83.89% in 2022-23, the DSEL had taken up the implementation of a 20-point programme across high schools in the State to improve the results. Mr. Bangarappa, who has been reviewing these programmes at the district level, said, "In some districts, the preparation is extraordinary (for SSLC exams) and in some, more work is needed. I am confident that there will be an improvement in results this time."

The Minister also reiterated that the 10% grace marks which was provided during the last academic year due to usage of webcasting in exam halls, will not be given this year. He said students have gotten more comfortable with the three-exam system now. "Last year, when we conducted three exams, students were confused as it was last minute. Now they have clarity about it."

Skill at School

The DSEL is planning to introduce a programme called 'Skill at School' with help from other departments for students of all classes. These programmes will be held after school at all times, including holidays, except during the examination season. "These skills will help them in the future. We will announce more details in the budget," Mr. Bangarappa said.

In two years SIT recovers 9.19 mBTC valued at ₹77,460

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Bitcoin scam: According to sources, the recovered cryptocurrency is linked to a case involving the alleged hacking of PokerBaazi, a gaming website. FILE PHOTO

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which has been probing the bitcoin scam, has made little progress in recovering the cryptocurrency over the past two years. According to an investigation team source, 9.19 millibitcoins (mBTC) has been recovered. One mBTC is equivalent to 0.001 bitcoin, and based on the current market price, the total value of the recovered amount is estimated at ₹77,460.

The SIT was formed in July 2023. According to sources, the recovered cryptocurrency is linked to a case involving the alleged hacking of PokerBaazi, a gaming website. The case was filed in 2018. It was alleged that international hacker Srikrishna Ramesh, aka Sriki, had hacked into the website.

Eight cases

The SIT is investigating eight cases involving accused persons, including Sriki, Robin Khandelwal, Sunish Hegde, and several former Central Crime Branch (CCB) officers. The FIRs, related to hacking, cheating, and violations under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, were registered at multiple police stations, including Ashok Nagar, Cottonpet, K.G. Nagar, the Central Cybercrime Police Station, the CID Police Station, and New Extension Police Station in Tumakuru district.

In a 2017 case from Tumakuru district, the police arrested Sriki and Khandelwal in May 2024 and charged them under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA), 2000. However, the Karnataka High Court later quashed the KCOCA charges, and the duo was released on bail.

Based on a complaint by Harish B.V., Director of Unocoin Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a case was registered against unidentified individuals for hacking into Unocoin's database and stealing 60.6 bitcoins. At the time of the theft, each bitcoin was worth ₹1,67,481. The SIT has named Sriki and Khandelwal as accused in the case.

An FIR filed at the CID Police Station accused former CCB officers of wrongful confinement, destruction of electronic evidence, and breach of trust. The three accused officers – Sridhar K. Pujar, Lakshmikantaiah, and Chandradhar – were then serving as CCB inspectors. Two others other were Prashanth Babu D.M., in charge of the CCB Technical Support Centre, and Santosh Kumar K.S., CEO of GCID Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

The SIT arrested Babu, Pujar, Lakshmikantaiah, Chandradhar, and Santosh, but all are currently out on bail. The SIT also summoned and questioned IPS officer Sandeep Patil, who was the Joint Commissioner (Crime) when Sriki was first arrested.

SIT sources said they have been unable to recover any additional bitcoins linked to other hacks, including Bitfinex. Officials attribute the delay to the poor response from cryptocurrency exchanges. Out of 32 requests sent by the SIT, only 10 have received responses so far.

Notably, the U.S. Department of Justice recovered 94,000 bitcoins in what remains the largest cryptocurrency hack in history, where 119,794 Bitcoins were stolen. In February 2022, the DoJ arrested a couple, Lichtenstein and Morgan, in connection with the case.

Chargesheet in 2 cases

The SIT has only been able to file chargesheets in two cases so far. These include: An NDPS case registered at K.G. Nagar Police Station (the first case in which Sriki was arrested), and a cheating case filed at Ashok Nagar Police Station.

The SIT has yet to file chargesheets in cases related to hacking the government e-procurement site, PokerBaazi, Bitcoin exchanges, and Unocoin.

Higher Education Ministers of seven States to deliberate on UGC Draft Regulations at conclave tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Ministers of seven States will participate in a one-day conclave on February 5 in Bengaluru to discuss the draft regulations issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) regarding the appointment of Vice-Chancellors and Higher Education Institutions.

"It has come to light that regional parties in some states are in alliance with NDA and are not in a position to express their opposition openly. It has also been revealed that JDU, TDP and LJP (Ram Vilas Paswan) that are in alliance with NDA have issued press statements expressing their dissatisfaction in this regard. The Minister for Higher Education, New Delhi, will not be taking part in this conclave due to the impending elections in the Capital. However, Ministers for Higher Education of Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are participating in this conclave," said M.C. Sudhakar, Higher Education Minister of the State.

While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the conclave, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will participate as a special invitee.

Anti-Constitutional approach

Dr. Sudhakar said the conclave is being held to comprehensively discuss the Centre's stance on higher education. All decisions arrived at will be conveyed both to the Centre and the UGC. He added, "It is extremely important to strengthen the federal structure of the nation. The Indian Education System is very robust. This move of the Centre to forcibly impose its ideology all at once without consulting states is inappropriate in a federal arrangement. This is an anti-Constitutional approach."

BU PG student found dead on hostel campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old postgraduate student of Bangalore University was found dead in the hostel on the Jnanabharathi campus on Monday.

The deceased, identified as Pawana H.N., from H.D. Kote, was a second year student of the Kannada Study Centre. She was staying at Ramabai Ambedkar Women's Hostel.

Pawana was found dead in her hostel room around 11 p.m. Her hostel mates alerted the staff and the jurisdictional Jnanabharathi police later.

Investigation on

The police, along with FSL team, conducted the investigation before shifting her body for post-mortem. The police are verifying the reason for her extreme step and inquiring with her hostel mates and friends for further investigation.

The police have informed the parents and are waiting to record their statement based on which necessary action will be taken, a senior police officer said.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on Ph. No. 104 for help.)

Kidwai Institute saw over 21,000 new cases in 2024

WORLD CANCER DAY

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

PCBR data shows that approximately 14 lakh new cancer cases are reported annually in India. Of these, an estimated 87,850 new cases are from Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

The State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology registered as many as 21,051 new cases in 2024. This is apart from 3.89 lakh patients who visited the institute for follow-ups last year. In 2023, of the 21,608 new cases registered in Kidwai, 12,500 were newly-diagnosed cancer cases.

To highlight the significance of cancer awareness, early detection, prevention and treatment, February 4 is observed as World Cancer Day. The theme this year is 'United by Unique'. To mark the day, the institute is organising an awareness jatha starting from Kidwai to Lalbagh.

Based on the Population Based Cancer Registry (PCBR) data, approximately 14 lakh new cancer cases are reported annually in India. Of these, an estimated 87,850 new cases are from Karnataka. About 2.37 lakh cancer cases (including those on treatment and newly diagnosed) can be noticed at any given point of time in the State.

Female cancers high

In Bengaluru, of the estimated 15,603 cases registered annually, 8,723 are female cancers. Of the 6,880 male cancers reported, lung cancer continues to be the most predominant site (9.7% of the total male cancers). Lung cancer is followed by cancers of the prostate (6.9%), stomach (6.5%), and mouth (6.4%).

Among females, breast cancer is the most common constituting 31.5% of the total female cancers followed by cancer of the cervix (9.1%), ovary (6.4%), mouth (4.3%), and corpus uteri (4.2%), according to data shared by Kidwai administrator Naveen Bhat Y.

"If diagnosed early and optimally treated, nearly 70 % of cancers can be cured. Unfortunately, more than 50% of patients visit the cancer treating centres in an advanced stage when the survival of these patients is minimal. The best way to fight cancer is by prevention, by avoiding or reducing probable risk factors," stated an official release from the institute.

The increase in incidence and pattern of cancers can be attributed to several risk factors: tobacco consumption, which contributes to the occurrence of more than a third of cancers. Avoiding paan masala, gutkha, supari and tobacco prevents cancer of mouth, throat, food pipe and stomach. Cessation of tobacco smoking reduces chances of lung cancer, stated the release.

Alcohol consumption, late marriage, lack of exercise and body hygiene, stress, consumption of junk food, preserved food like salted fish, long term use of hormone tablets, application of inorganic insecticides, pesticides and weedicides are the probable modifiable risk factors for cancers.

Braille-enabled Indian Constitution launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To mark 75 years of the Constitution, Sankara Eye Hospital in collaboration with CII Young Indians (Yi) Bengaluru, has brought out a Braille-enabled version of the Indian Constitution. Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the Braille version in the city on Saturday.

This initiative aims to empower those who are blind or have low vision by enabling them to read and understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens. By providing a Braille version of the Indian Constitution, the project seeks to foster a more inclusive society, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their vision ability, has equal access to foundational knowledge about their nation.

Walkathon on cancer awareness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to raise awareness about cancer and promote community solidarity, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital (RMH) hosted a walkathon titled 'Ramaiah Hope-A-Thon: Let's Walk United to Win Against Cancer' on Sunday. The event was part of RMH's campaign for World Cancer Day.

The 5-km walkathon, flagged off at the hospital premises at 6 a.m., saw more than 500 participants, including hospital staff, doctors, cancer survivors, and their families. The participants, dressed in lavender t-shirts and caps, symbolising cancer awareness and hope, began the event with an energizing zumba session before setting off on their walk.

The event was inaugurated by S.C. Nagendra Swamy, president, RMH, and K. Harish, director, Ramaiah Institute of Onco Sciences and Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology.

Advertisement No. 3/2025

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Public Enterprises Selection Board
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Director (Planning & Projects)
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NLC India Limited

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on
26th February, 2025

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 15:00 Hours on
7th March, 2025

For details login to website **https://pesb.gov.in**

THE HINDU GROUP

ACES SPORTS QUIZ

1. Which Indian table tennis player, alongside Ayhika Mukherjee, Sutirtha Mukherjee, and Manika Batra, was part of the historic team that secured India's first-ever medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships?
2. In 2024, which Indian athlete became the oldest Grand Slam winner at the age of 43, securing a doubles victory at the Australian Open?
3. 14-year-old _____ Dhinidi Desinghu held the remarkable distinction of being the youngest Indian in the Paris 2024 Olympic squad. Fill in the blank.

Scan the QR code or visit **sstar.news/SSA2025AQPA** to vote for your favourite stars and take part in the quiz. Top 3 winners every day will win exciting gift vouchers*.

*T&C apply.

Answers to yesterday's quiz:
1. Arm-Wrestling
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. 2036

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Rajkumar Rambhatla, Vishakapatnam
2. Anand. A, Manjeri
3. Chhaviyush, Gurugram

Amul presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2025 INDIA TRIUMPHS
#SSaces2025

Police constable booked for harassing wife over dowry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Grounds police on Wednesday registered an FIR against a police constable for allegedly harassing his wife for dowry. Based on complaint by Rekha, the police charged Manoj S. under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, and Sections 115 and 85 of BNS for further investigation.

The victim met Manoj at the Seshadripuram police station where he was working in 2024. They got married in August last year.

In the complaint, Rekha alleged that Suresh's family started to harass her following which the couple moved to the police quarters in Vasanthnagar. Soon, Manoj started having affairs and began physically and verbally abusing her.

Invest Karnataka 2025: ₹10 lakh cr. investment proposals expected

18 countries will participate in the State government's flagship event, says Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Global Investors' Meet - Invest Karnataka 2025, set to be inaugurated on February 11, is expected to attract investment proposals worth ₹10 lakh crore, announced Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday.

Chairing a meeting to review the preparations and interdepartmental coordination, Mr. Shivakumar said 18 countries will participate in the State government's flagship event. "Over 2,000 investors have already registered, and around 60 speakers will address key topics. Besides, nine countries will set up dedicated pavilions to showcase their industries and investment potential," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Minister M.B. Patil at a review meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Shivakumar, who lauded the preparations by Industries Minister M.B. Patil for the event, said the Minister had led delegations to the U.S., South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and several European nations, holding roadshows and interactive meetings with potential investors.

Mr. Patil said the meet with the theme 'Reimagining Growth' will focus on four key pillars - Tech-driven, Green, Inclusive, and Resilient growth. Drawing inspiration from the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, the event will see the unveiling of new policies and initiatives, with a strong focus on ensuring that three-fourths of the proposed investments are implemented on the ground.

As a key highlight, the New Industrial Policy (2025-30), with a strong emphasis on export promotion, will be launched during the event. The policy will offer enhanced incentives for industries in backward and most backward regions, as per the DM Nanjundappa Committee report.

Mr. Patil also announced the introduction of business-friendly reforms, including ease of doing business measures and a revamped Single-Window System. Additionally, efforts will be made to encourage Research and Development centres and Global Capability Centres in Bengaluru to engage in local manufacturing. Special emphasis will be placed on green energy and the development of the electric vehicle ecosystem, he said.

To facilitate smooth networking and business interactions, the event inauguration has been scheduled for the evening of February 11 instead of February 12, the Minister said.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Ramalinga Reddy, Krishna Byre Gowda, Cheluvarayaswamy, Sharanabasappa Darshanapura, Priyank Kharge, and Dinesh Gundu Rao. Industries Department Principal Secretary S. Selvakumar made a presentation on the event's planning. Also present were Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Minister's Additional Chief Secretary L.K. Atheeq, and other officials.

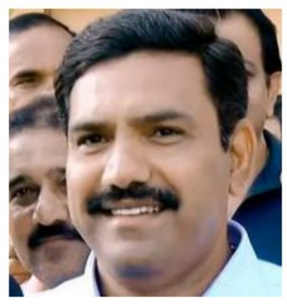
BJP rebels to meet central leaders in Delhi today

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/BENGALURU/ SHIVAMOGGA

All eyes in the BJP are now on developments in Delhi as rebel leaders are set to meet the central leaders on Tuesday to complain against party State president B.Y. Vijayendra and to seek his replacement.

While a few rebels, including MLA B.P. Harish and former Ministers Ramesh Jarkiholi and Kumar Bangarappa, have already left for Delhi, others including senior MLA Basanagouda Patil will leave on Tuesday. Sources in the rebels' camp said they are planning to meet some of the central leaders on Tuesday itself.

Mr. Yatnal, who has openly rebelled against Mr. Vijayendra, told media persons in Vijayapura on Monday that they (rebels) were going to appraise the high command about veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa and his son's "wrongdoings". "We are going to Delhi to draw the attention of the party high command on the State president's position. We are fighting against the dynasty and family politics and we will brief the party high command about this," he said.



BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra FILE PHOTO

Mr. Yatnal said they wanted to end family politics in the BJP, besides seeking the appointment of a pro-Hindutva leader as party chief. He alleged that the reason for the party's pitiable condition in Karnataka was its inability to protect Hindutva. "If Mr. Vijayendra continues as BJP State president, the party will reach a pitiable condition in the State," he said.

Vijayendra confident

Meanwhile, Mr. Vijayendra told media persons in Shivamogga that he is confident of continuing in the post of party as State president. "All the issues will be resolved within a week or 10 days. The high command has been observing the developments closely," he stated.

Secret meeting

A secret meeting between former Minister B. Sriramulu, who expressed pain over the developments in the party, and BJP State general secretary P. Rajeev, who is identified with Mr. Vijayendra's faction, on Monday has led to speculations. Mr. Sriramulu has negated reports about him quitting the party.

DKS says police will be given more powers to curb torture by MFIs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that the State government will give more powers to the police to curb the torture of the poor by microfinance companies in the name of loan recovery.

The government, which is in the process of promulgating an Ordinance to rein the microfinance companies, has finalised the Karnataka Microfinance (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025, after several rounds of meetings.

The Ordinance proposes to provide relief to borrowers from coercive action by unlicensed and unregistered microfinance institutions or money lending agencies/organisations. Sources said the Ordinance has been sent to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and his approval has been awaited.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Our government will not allow microfinance companies to take the law into their hands and torture the poor using hooligans. We will give more power to the police to handle this."

'Many FIRs filed'

On torture continuing in spite of warnings by the government, he said: "Many FIRs have been filed against microfinance companies in Belagavi, Bidar, Mysuru, and Ramanagara. The Chief Minister and the Cooperation Minister have already issued stern warnings in this regard. We have started helplines in every district headquarters. The Chief Minister will hold meetings on this with senior police officials."

Following a spate of suicides by borrowers of loans from largely unregistered microfinance institutions, the Congress government was under pressure to enforce a law to check undue hardship of usurious interest rates and coercive means of recovery.

'State debt not high'

Mr. Shivakumar said: "It is important to understand how much debt the Centre has acquired. The State government debt is not high. The Prime Minister alleged that Karnataka will go bankrupt due to the guarantee schemes, but we have sound finances. The guarantee schemes are for the people and not for votes."

On funds not being released by the Centre for the Upper Bhadra project, he said: "One must keep their word." Asked if the JD (S) MLAs were in touch with him, he said: "I have not spoken about JD(S) MLAs. I only said that the JD(S) MLAs must look after their own future. Many JD (S) workers have come forward to join us."

MUDA castigated for not registering sale deed of site allotted 24 years ago

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has castigated the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) for treating with scant respect and regard a former Director-General of Medical Services (Armed Forces), B.N.B.M. Prasad, by refusing to register the sale deed of a site, which the authority had allotted to him in 2001 and collected ₹1.6 lakh as the entire amount of the allotted site.

The court directed MUDA to register the site, measuring 60ftX40 ft, allotted to him at Hanchya Sathagalli Zone-B or an alternative site of the same dimension and value within eight weeks.

Penalty

Also, the court said that MUDA has to pay him within four weeks a penalty of ₹500 for every day's delay in registering the site since 2016 as per the directions of a Mysuru district consumer disputes redressal commission, which had given 60 days time for MUDA to register the sale deed in his favour with effect from July 22, 2016, till registration of the site. If the penalty amount is not paid within four weeks, the court said then MUDA will have to pay interest at 10% on

the accrued penalty amount.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice G. Basavaraja, passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Dr. Prasad, who had challenged the Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission's January 2024 order of setting aside the district commission's order.

"The MUDA has treated with scant respect and regard a defence personnel of the kind who has put a long and spotless service of three decades in guarding the frontiers of the nation. The encomia earned by him at the hands of the Central and State governments failed to impress MUDA officials," the court observed.

Finding fault with MUDA's action of forfeiting the entire amount paid by him, the court observed that "it is not that petitioner is a vagabond, but a high ranking Army official. He could not have been compelled to wage this long legal battle to get a house site of the kind..." while noticing that the petitioner is a recipient of President's Sena Medal for Gallantry for serving in Kargil, Vishishta Seva Medal, etc., and Karnataka Rajyotsava award for his service in the armed forces from 1977 to 2016. Dr. Prasad, who is a pulmonologist, had also served as honourary surgeon to then President of India, Pranab Mukherjee.

Background

After allotting site and receiving amount of the site from him in 2001, MUDA had strangely issued a notice to him in 2014 asking him to pay additional amount of around ₹21,000 based on its audit department's remark. After he paid additional amount in 2016, MUDA declined to register site for the reason that site cannot be registered due to delay in payment.

However, the court found that MUDA's notice, asking him to pay additional amount, had "never reached" Dr. Prasad as he had left the address at which the notice is said to have been sent, and MUDA did not make any efforts to serve the notice by substituted mode. Non-service of notice cannot be held against him as it a common knowledge that defence personnel go wherever deployed depending upon the nature of duty., the court said.

'Tax cut for middle class a gimmick'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former MP and chairman of All India Congress Committee's research department, M.V. Rajeev Gowda, on Monday alleged that announcement of tax cut for the middle class in the Union Budget was a gimmick to divert the country's declining growth rate.

Addressing presspersons here, Mr. Gowda said that despite raising the no-tax bracket to ₹12 lakh, the Budget failed to spur economic growth. He pointed out that the tax cut benefits only about three crore urban taxpayers.

"Instead, if fuel prices were reduced, it would have benefited the entire country, including wage labourers, domestic workers, and all classes of people. If GST was reduced, it would have been even more beneficial. The important thing is that the savings rate of the people has fallen," he said.

'CS will hold meeting on dog menace on Vidhana Soudha premises'

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A high-level meeting will be called shortly by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to resolve the problem caused by street dogs on the Vidhana Soudha premises, said Speaker U.T. Khader in Mangaluru on Monday.

Talking to reporters, Mr. Khader said there are a good number of dogs on the Vidhana Soudha premises. There were complaints by legislators of the problems caused by dogs when they were on morning walk. There were also instances of dogs damaging the carpet laid for ceremonial events.

'Find amicable solution'

"These dogs have been on the premises for a long time. We need to find amicable solution to the problem," he said. Representatives of Prani Daya Sangha and animal rights activists will be called for the meeting, Mr. Khader said.

Complaints had been made by legislators about problems caused by the dogs on the Vidhana Soudha premises FILE PHOTO

The Budget session of the Karnataka legislature is likely to commence from March 3.

The State Budget is likely to be presented on March 7, Mr. Khader said.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No. 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road,
Bengaluru-560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website: www.kiadb.in

No.: IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-47/872/2024-25 Date: 03.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Portal Only)

Item rate tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible KPWD Class III (Civil) & above contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work: Construction of raising existing RCC side drain infront of plot no. 8 at Kadakola Industrial Area, Mysuru District. (Reserved for SC Category)

• Last date for submission of tender is: 21.02.2025 upto 4:30 p.m.

Applicants may download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, K.I.A.D.B, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/LC/4788/2024-25

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-46/870/2024-25 Date: 03.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Reconstruction of 18m wide & 12m wide road including asphalting construction of RCC side drains at Attibele Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **05.03.2025** upto **4.30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4784/Zen/2024-25

Office of Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEx)
MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
ED II Building, No. 1, Parthasarathy Kovil Street, Ekkatuthangal, Chennai – 600 032

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Expression of Interest (EOI) regarding the Empanelment of Service Partners for Food Processing MSMEs in Tamil Nadu, dated 4th February 2025, may be accessed as published in The Hindu and Dinakaran Tamil daily.

Sl.	Expression of Interest (EoI) Submission Portal, Date of Issue and Due Date (DD) and time	Subject of Expression of Interest (EoI)
1.	https://www.tnapex.tn.gov.in/ Due Date & Time: 25th - February-2025 (11 AM)	Expression of Interest (EoI) for Empanelment of Service Partners for the Food Processing MSMEs of Tamil Nadu. The list of services for which service partners are invited to be empanelled for following activities such as Business Service consulting, IT, Quality certification, IPR services, HR, Marketing, Printing and Energy Audit.

For any queries, please send an email to **md.tnapex@tn.gov.in.** Interested applicants can download the EoI document from **www.tnapex.tn.gov.in** until the due date. The EoI submission process is offline/physical, and all required annexures must be sent via post to the TNAPEx address.

DIPR/443/TENDER/2025

Managing Director and
Chief Executive Officer,TNAPEx

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Road Works under MMSY-Improvement to Existing RD Roads
Bid Identification No. NCB-32/RWCKJR/2024-25

No. 406 // Date : 28.01.2025

1. Name of the Work : **Construction and Maintenance of road under MMSY-Improvement to Existing RD Roads in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of Work : **03 (Three)** Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-32 / RWCKJR / 2024-25	Dt.05.02.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.19.02.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.18.02.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.20.02.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

O-1358: Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
OIPR-25177/11/0044/2425

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

K.SAMPATH KUMAR
(1933 - 2025)
With profound regret we announce the passing of K.Sampath Kumar

A loving father and grandfather who will be deeply missed by his large circle of family and friends

Seshasayee and Padmini Krishnakumar and Sujatha Sidharth, Reshma, Prashanth, Srushti and Janani

Mb: 9962582956

DEATH

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' II Timothy 4:7

Capt. SHIBU ISAAC
02.02.1965 - 01.02.2025
Proprietor
Force 1 Security Services
Funeral
on 5th February, 2025
at 4PM, Kilpauk Cemetery.

Susan, Shane, Sheetal & Achuthan
+91 9841250002

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

IISc's Pravriddhi aims to give a fillip to manufacturing, reduce import-reliance

Programme by the Foundation for Science, Innovation, and Development at IISc, it aims to bridge technology gap in the capital goods sector by encouraging market-driven innovation

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Launch event of Pravriddhi. (From left) Dr. Renuka Mishra, K. Srinivasan-Managing Director, Prof. B. Gurumoorthy, Prof. G.K. Anantha Suresh, Mr. Vipin Sondhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The signing of an MoU with Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) during the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 in the presence of H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Heavy Industries, and other dignitaries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute to around 30% of India's GDP generating more than 23 crore jobs, second only to agriculture. A large portion of SMEs operate in the capital goods sector. The Economic Survey 2024-25 points out that despite a robust growth trajectory in 2024, the capital goods sector has been increasingly reliant on imports.

"Due to technology gaps, this sector imports the high-end machines required for manufacturing. There is an urgent need to address the technology, skill and infrastructure gaps," the report notes.

Pravriddhi, a product accelerator programme by the Foundation for Science, Innovation, and Development (FSID) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc,) aims to bridge this gap by encouraging market-driven innovation and manufacturing in the capital goods sector and replicating it at scale. Launched in November 2024, the accelerator aims to bring together enterprises and premier institutions for the same.

Import-reliance in manufacturing

In India, imports in the capital goods sector have been massive. Yogesh Pandit, Director - Product Acceleration, FSID, explains.

"In the capital goods market in the country, you have 10 sub-sectors including heavy electrical machinery, textile, printing and so on. All put together, we are importing around ₹1.5 lakh crore worth of equipment into the country. If we start making these products in the country, that much money could be stopped from going outside."

However, the SMEs in the country which primarily operate on cost arbitrage have had no incentive to work in the direction of technological innovation.

"If you look at the SME sector in the country, they are either into contract manufacturing or white label manufacturing. We look at how to move them up the value chain," says B. Gurumoorthy, Director- FSID and Professor at IISc.

The seeds of Pravriddhi were sown when FSID started a project with the Ministry of Heavy Industries to work with a cohort of companies to build products at an accelerated pace.

The first cohort, which is currently running, consists of eight enterprises working on eight different products with the help of mentors from IISc. According to Gurumoorthy, Pravriddhi was an attempt to see if this could be scaled further. "The goal remains the same," he notes, "which is manufacturing of indigenous designs that are market driven."

While one aim of the programme is to create a dent in the current technology imports to the country, the other looks at new technologies which may be India-specific at present but could become a global requirement in the future.

While one aim of the programme is to create a dent in the current technology imports to the country, the other looks at new technologies which may be India-specific at present but could become a global requirement in the future.
GETTY IMAGES

While one aim of the programme is also to create a dent in the current technology imports to the country, the other looks at new technologies which may be India-specific at present but could become a global requirement in the future, the primary aim is to bridge the technology gap in the capital goods sector and boost R&D in the sector.

Structured programme

Pravriddhi structures its programme with its first touchpoint as the market.

"We have conducted a survey of the market to understand what are the products that we import currently, how do we import substitute and so on. Then we identified a curated list of themed cohorts. For example, if we look at EVs, what are we importing under EVs?" Pandit explains.

In the next step, the team understands what products are in demand and how long the demand could be. It also identifies the technology gaps and what is stopping the local players from building the technology. The next step is to identify the industry partners or enterprises suitable for the work.

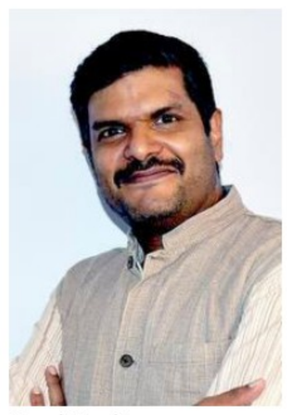
"We are not approaching startups," emphasises Pandit.

"Since we are focused on the market and have a limited amount of time, we go with experienced companies that have been around for 10 years in the adjacent space. For example, if we want to make a motor for EV, we look for somebody who is a veteran in motors, so that we don't have to teach them how to make a motor. We just need to give them a delta of how to make a motor for EV. And they know how to sell it; We don't have to teach them how to sell it."

The team is also setting up a vendor network to overcome the potential capability gap.

"Let's say the motor company onboarded can make 10 lakh EV motors, but not more than that. Through the vendor network, we would bring in another vendor who can manufacture that many motors for him."

The cohorts go through a 30-month cycle where the first 18-24 months would be spent on R&D and the remaining one year in go-to-market. According to Pandit, the current cohort has generated 23 IPs so far, the value of which surpasses the initial investment. As more and more IPs are generated, he feels that the technnological challenges the country faces in the sector will be largely addressed.


Yogesh Pandit

B. Gurumoorthy

Scaling up

FSID, which is currently running its first cohort, has submitted a proposal for its next cohort. While initially the idea is to host and guide the cohorts at the IISc campus, the team has been talking to other partners and research organisations who would be open to running similar accelerators on their premises.

In January 2025, FSID signed an MoU with the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) to replicate the product accelerator platform developed under Pravriddhi programme and establish a Centre of Excellence focusing on research, development, technology innovation, and testing, validation, and engineering services in the mobility space. "That's how we intend to scale, because at best we can do 8 to 10 companies in a cohort. Even if you do two cohorts a year, the number of companies would be very limited. But if there are 10 such accelerators like us across the country then that number becomes quite large," Gurumoorthy notes.

More private support

The team also feels more investment from the private sector would be crucial in giving fillip to technological innovations in manufacturing. So far, most of the investment has been from the government.

"On the investment side, there is risk because nobody has gone through the cycle to have the confidence that this kind of thing will pay off," admits Gurumoorthy.

"Right now, we are leaning on the government. But if we can show the success of these programmes, the industry will be confident that this process will pay off. Then we can slowly wean them away from government funding," he hopes.

According to him, the programme is already seeing some interest from a few private funds.

"We don't know where they will participate; they may only want to participate when the product is ready, then they may want to invest in facilities for manufacturing at scale... That is also good because the company benefits and therefore the country benefits. But we would like them to also replace the government as the risk funding partner," he adds.

Mahesh Dattani's new play brings a gender-bending farce to Bengaluru with Yakshagana flair

The play *Yogi Mattu Bhogi* is an adaptation of the 7th-century play, *Bhagavadajjukam*, also known in English as *The Ascetic and The Courtesan*

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Punaha, a theatre company based in Udupi is bringing its latest production *Yogi Mattu Bhogi* for the first time to Bengaluru this week, starting with a show on February 6 at Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur at 7 p.m. .

Directed by renowned writer, playwright and actor Mahesh Dattani, the play is an adaptation of the 7th-century play, *Bhagavadajjukam (Sanskrit, 'Bhagavat' - hermit; 'Ajjuka' - harlot)*, also known in English as *The Ascetic and The Courtesan*. According to the synopsis, this play is one of the oldest surviving plays in Sanskrit literature, it is a fine example of a *'prahasana'*, or farce. Layered in witty exchanges about dharma, it is centred around the transmigration of souls between the two titular characters leading to confusion and chaos for the supporting characters who have no answer to the absurdity of it all, said the synopsis.

A scene from the play Yogi Mattu. HARSHUL B.

Translated to Kannada by Vishvajith Madhavamurthy, in this version of the play Dattani plays around with the idea of gender, its expression, perception, spectrum and the exploration of what one truly is with a confrontation of stereotypes using humour and catharsis.

On being asked why the director chose the play, Dattani told *The Hindu* he decided to take up the play as he had seen an English language presentation of the play in the U.S. earlier, and that motivated him. "What struck me first was the comic element of the play. The play gives a time scope for transposing gender and soul, and a hint of crossing sexuality. The play explores how binaries are swapped, and in the swapping some gray areas are created," he said.

The director said that the play is very relevant to our times. "Just as modernity began with questioning class differences and urban v/s rural, I think today, we are looking at removing these artificial constructs of gender and sexuality," he explained. With Yakshagana elements throughout the play, *Yogi Mattu Bhogi* comes alive when the classic Sanskrit text and the physicality of theatre gel seamlessly with the traditional dance theatre form from coastal Karnataka. Yakshagana movements choreographed by popular Yakshagana guru Bannanje Sanjeeva Suvarna, Dattani said that his choreography is the highlight of the play. "I met Guruji many years ago and visited his school. I liked his openness and when one of our actors mentioned that he was learning the dance form from him, it seemed perfect to bring the Yakshagana element in and by the guru himself. Of course, there were challenges when it came to his availability as his health was not in good shape," he said.

"We used a lot of elements from his traditional style of choreography. I managed to convey the 'prahasana' or farce to him, and he came up with an interesting Ganapathi Vandana, the entry of Yama in the play was also choreographed by him which is fabulous," said Dattani.

Dattani added that he worked with a very versatile cast and crew, which became an interesting element in the play. He said that since many actors belonged to different parts of Karnataka, they all speak various Kannada dialects throughout the play.

Punaha will also be performing *Yogi Mattu Bhogi* at various venues across the city this week including Padmini Rao Parampara Auditorium, Banashankari on February 7, Ranga Shankara, J. P. Nagar on February 8, and Jagriti, Whitefield on February 9. Tickets are available on BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRARY 4, 1975

Use of Safety Helmets a Must from May

Bangalore, Feb. 3: Wearing of safety helmets is to be made compulsory from May for drivers and pillion riders of scooters and motorcycles under an amendment to the Karnataka Motor vehicle rules. Those violating this rule can be fined up to Rs. 100. There are about 82,000 two wheeled vehicles in the State, half of them registered in Bangalore alone. South Kanara district comes next with about 6,300 two wheeled vehicles followed by Belgaum 6,000, Mysore 5,900 and Shimoga 5,000.

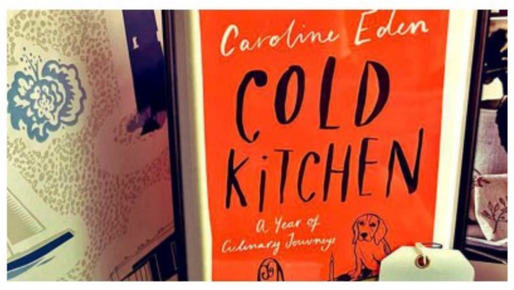
LIC Development Officers' Protest

Bangalore, Feb 3: About 100 development officers of the Life Insurance Corporation of India working in Bangalore have been observing a "resentment campaign" since January 8, demanding better treatment of the policyholders and agents by the LIC. The President of the city unit of the Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India, Mr. Ramaseshan, said a wrong image of the LIC was being projected as a result of delays in attending to the services of policyholders and settlement of claims either by maturity or death. Further, the LIC had increased the interest rates on loans to 11 and 13 per cent. Stringent conditions had been laid for giving loans under the own-your-home scheme. Mr. Ramaseshan said the treatment of agents left much to be desired.

CITYBEATS

Go for Goa

ONGOING
To celebrate their launch in Goa, Café Delhi Heights has curated a special menu inspired by this coastal state. Enjoy iconic dishes such as Goan masala fried fish, chicken cafreal, duck xacuti and Goan pork vindaloo, paired with Goan-inspired cocktails, such as kokam dream and chorizo picante.
Available at all Café Delhi Heights outlets till February 5.



In the hot seat

FEBRUARY 7
Author Caroline Eden will be launching her latest book *Cold Kitchen* at Champaca bookstore this week. The author who is touring India to promote her book, will be in conversation with Bengaluru's Vijeta Kumar. Together they will discuss *Cold Kitchen* as well as Caroline's previous books *Red Sands* and *Black Sea*.
At Champaca on February 7, 6pm. Entry free, but limited seating. Log in to champaca.in to RSVP.

Snake up the ladder

ONGOING
In case you missed it, there's still a chance to welcome the Year of the Snake. Nasi and Mee has curated their Yum Cha menu that celebrates the season of prosperity and joy with a wide range of vegetarian and non-vegetarian fare. Whatever your choice, conclude your meal on a sweet note with their signature Panda Bao.
At Nasi and Mee, Koramangala, Bellandur, and Manyata Tech Park. Till February 16.

Reimagining India's couture

Designer Tarun Tahiliani talks about his latest wedding collection and ready-to-wear brand Tasva

Priyamedha Dutta

Tarun Tahiliani is a name that needs no introduction, even if you are not familiar with the fashion world. With a career spanning almost three decades, his vision of blending Indian craftsmanship with Western aesthetics has paved the way for the Indian fashion industry to make its mark on a global platform.

While it could be argued that wearing a Tarun Tahiliani outfit might seem far fetched for most, the couturier has now embarked on a slightly different journey with his retail brand Tasva in collaboration with Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Limited (ABFRL) that focuses on affordable traditional Indian menswear.

Launched in 2021, Tasva has now multiple stores in major Indian cities. The designer was recently in Bengaluru to showcase Tasva's new wedding collection and the launch of its new store in Indiranagar.

The collection is a harmonious interplay of floral, fluid and geometric artwork, creating designs that are not only rooted in India's traditions, but are also distinctly modern as well. Inspired by the Tree of Life, the intricate elegance of Lippan art and the fluidity of paisleys, each piece is adorned with Indian embroidery techniques such as *aari, zardozi* and mirror work.

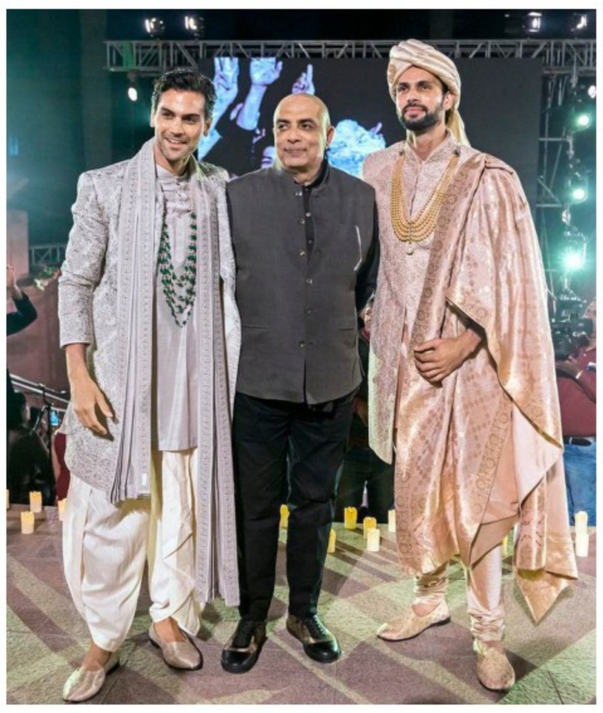
Amidst the store opening and fashion show in Bengaluru, the designer spoke about his new collection, the state of Indian textiles today and what goes behind creating a collection.

"Since we have been around for two years now with Tasva, we are reinforcing a lot of our own learnings about our customers into the collection. For instance, we have increased the use of colours – from soft pastels such as ivory, lilac and beiges to pale yellow and mustard for the *haldi* ceremony. The men are loving it, and it brings a festive touch to our Indian culture," says Tarun.

"For this collection, we have *bundis* in subtle textures with lots of colour options; there is also *patra* work, that looks like mirror work, as that is trending now. We are constantly rethinking fit and comfort."

At a time when the fashion industry, especially in India, is debating the revival of Indian craftsmanship amidst a consumer-driven culture and rapid technological advancement, Tarun is all about embracing modernity.

"Though we have made a lot of innovation in technology and medicine, when it comes to fashion, we need to stop trying to make everything look like costumes from Royal India. There is a vibrant new India now and we have to design for new fits with fabrics such as lycra, zippers in churidars or a corset choli that laces up – these are the big nods to modernity and technology of construction."



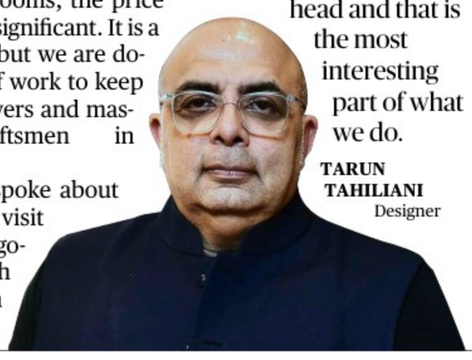
Haute as ever Designer Tarun Tahiliani (below), with models sporting his creations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Anyone wearing Hema Malini's costume from *Sita and Geeta* would look ridiculous in today's world unless it was a period film. Times, life and trends change – fashion has to evolve with it," he adds.

Over the years, with machines making a foray into the fashion industry, handlooms have taken a hit. "With changing times, we too, have to adapt. While there may not be a noticeable difference between the products of powerlooms and handlooms, the price drops are significant. It is a dilemma, but we are doing a lot of work to keep great weavers and master craftsmen in business."

Tarun spoke about his recent visit to the ongoing Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj. His association with Kumbh was also reflected in his 2013 *Kumbhback Collection* that drew from the colour palette of the sadhus. "From my recent visit to the Kumbh I am going to use those hues, though not in their regular tones but as Mughal colours. As a designer, ideas are constantly fusing in your head and that is the most interesting part of what we do."

> As a designer, ideas are constantly fusing in your head and that is the most interesting part of what we do.
> **TARUN TAHILIANI**
> Designer



With multiple national and international shows under his belt, Tarun has showcased his collections on some of the world's most prestigious runways. Reflecting on his journey, he says, "My first solo show was an AIDS fundraiser in 1994 and it was a sit-down dinner for 400 people. Then, for my show in Milan (in 2002, he was the first Indian designer to showcase his collection in Milan) they pushed me to do a modern version of India."

"We started the show with a sari and ended it with three *lehengas* – from the jewellery to the *dhoti* pants, it was contemporary, along the lines of what a Western woman might wear. I also feel my last two Tasva shows were remarkable as I have never seen an energy like that at a Tarun Tahiliani show before."

One piece of advice Tarun has for the upcoming designers: "It's a brutal and competitive world, we are in an age of social media where things get copied fast. Pursue it as if it's the only thing you have got to do, like breathing oxygen."

From chopping onions to a RCP empire

Prabalika M Borah

Saute and sizzle Chef Suresh Pillai in action. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Spices and Stories: Kerala Reimagined, a pop-up, is where chef Suresh Pillai showcased the beauty of food with his two secret ingredients – love and simplicity. The chef, who was recently in Hyderabad for a two-day pop-up at The Leela Hyderabad, shared that he has long wanted to open a restaurant in the city, given the number of Telugu patrons who frequent his Bengaluru restaurant, Restaurant Chef Pillai (RCP).

With nearly 25 restaurants across India, he sees the pop-up as an opportunity to introduce Hyderabad to his food philosophy. "This year, we are certain to open a restaurant in Hyderabad," he confirms.

Small stepping stones

The foundation of his culinary journey was laid with a simple task – chopping onions. After discontinuing his pre-degree due to family circumstances, he worked at various establishments before joining a hotel in Kollam,Kerala, in 1993 as a waiter, earning a monthly salary of ₹450.

"I was 16 years old, working at Chef King in Kollam. One afternoon, I was asked to help in the kitchen by chopping onions. I did as instructed. Seeing my work, the head cook told me I had the potential to be in the kitchen. From then on, I started assisting with chopping and cooking," he recalls.

His career had a turning point in 2002 when he moved to Bengaluru to work at The Leela Palace, where he officially became a chef. In 2005, an opportunity arose to work at Veeraswamy, a Michelin-starred restaurant in the UK, marking a new chapter in his career.

He has had no formal training in hotel management. Instead, he attributes his cooking instincts to his mother.

Growing up by the Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam where seafood was abundant, he recalls, "There were times when we didn't have rice to eat, but we always had fish."

At Veeraswamy, London's iconic Indian restaurant established in 1926 by Edward Palmer, Suresh's career took another leap. In 2017, he had the opportunity to contest in *BBC MasterChef*, a cooking reality show on television, which, he says, transformed his journey.

"My career changed completely. I was cooking and serving Indian food while constantly innovating to elevate it to fine-dining standards. I experimented with flavours that appealed to Western palates and explored endless culinary possibilities. I have enjoyed every moment of my career and still do," he says.

After three decades in the industry, he transitioned into the restaurant business, taking his passion for food a step further. His career has taken him across England, Australia, and the Caribbean Islands, where he mentored university students in culinary arts.

In 2018, he returned to India and has never looked back. Post-COVID, he launched Restaurant Chef Pillai in Whitefield, Bengaluru, followed by an outlet at Le Méridien in Kochi.

He has introduced Kothu Xpress, a food-on-the-go concept, and is set to launch North Rasoi, a tandoori-special chain.

Beyond love and simplicity, his expertise lies in blending traditional spices to create what he calls a "flavour bomb." His culinary imagination shines in dishes such as *Sambharam kadumanga pani puri*–a pre-starter where the *pani* is replaced with spiced buttermilk, and the *puri* is filled with Kerala mango pickle. Another standout dish is *inji puli* chicken wings, a fusion of a *sadya*-favourite flavour infused into crispy fried wings. Then there's Venad *paal konju*–prawns cooked in virgin coconut milk and served with sun-dried shrimp chutney.

How would he describe his food? "My food is a blend of traditional flavours with modern elements. Authentic, with a glimpse of fusion."

Made in India Ricky Kej sporting traditional Indian wear for the 67th Grammy Awards this year. BILLBOARD VIA GETTY IMAGES

City's pride

Bengaluru-based musician Ricky Kej attended the 67th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on February 2, 2025. A three-time Grammy winner, Ricky was nominated a fourth time for his album *Break of Dawn*.

According to a press release, *Break of Dawn* is a New Age album based on ancient Indian ragas, and has been formulated to promote mental health and well-being. Singer and composer Nishant Shekar and musician Ravichandra Kulur have collaborated with Ricky on this album which is being celebrated for its innovative approach and profound emotional impact.

For the Grammy's, Ricky wore an outfit designed by Bharat Jain and his team at 108 Bespoke, which brought together themes of nature, tradition, and sustainability.

The traditional *kambli* shawl, historically woven by the Kuruba weavers of Karnataka, was designed by Pavithra Muddaya of Vimor. The piece was crafted with recycled waste yarns and natural fibres in a shout out to sustainability as well as the weaving techniques of Belgaum.

Indian-American vocalist and entrepreneur Chandrika Tandon, brushed past Ricky and Anoushka Shankar to win the Grammy this year for her album *Triveni* in the Best New Age category.

South African flautist Wouter Kellerman and Japanese cellist Eru Matsumoto had collaborated with her on the album.

SC dismisses appeal against quashing of FIR against Kateel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a special leave petition challenging a Karnataka High Court decision to quash a first information report (FIR) initiated on the basis of a complaint filed by Adarsh R. Iyer, co-president of the Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath, against Nalin Kumar Kateel, former president of the BJP State unit.

The FIR also named Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others. It was registered on Mr. Iyer's complaint alleging "extortion" of around ₹8,000 crore, pushing key persons in certain companies to purchase electoral bonds in favour of the BJP after allegedly conducting raids on their companies and making arrests by misusing officials of the Enforcement Directorate.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said the complaint was "full of assumptions". "There is no evidence to show extortion," Chief Justice Khanna said. "The High Court says there is no evidence and that you [Iyer] are a third person," he told advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner.

Mr. Bhushan said the complaint showed "that persons were put in fear of ED raids". Justice Kumar said the court cannot delve into allegations based on mere speculation. Chief Justice Khanna said the poll bonds scheme was struck down after the SC went into jurisprudential questions concerning it. In individual matters, the courts would decide as per facts and circumstances.

Telangana House to debate caste survey and SC reports

Special session convened; Revanth Reddy government to appeal to the Union government to enchance reservation for Backward Classes in line with the findings of the survey held last year

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A special session of the Telangana Legislative Assembly will be held on Tuesday to discuss the report of the comprehensive Social, Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste survey.

The special session has been convened to adopt a resolution urging the Union government to enhance the reservation for the Backward Classes in line with their population which, after the survey, was estimated at over 50%.

The BC Commission has submitted its report to the government outlining the total caste composition of the State's population revealed after the survey.

The survey – a key election promise made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi – was conducted over 50 days from November 6.

The government has decided to wait for the Centre's response to the resolution before announcing the schedule for the local body polls.

The special session will also discuss the modalities for sub-classification of Scheduled Castes into A,B,C and D groups for which the Supreme Court had given its go-ahead recently.

During the Assembly session, the Revanth Reddy government will table the report on SC sub-categorisation by the judicial commission headed by retired High Court Judge Shameem Akhtar.

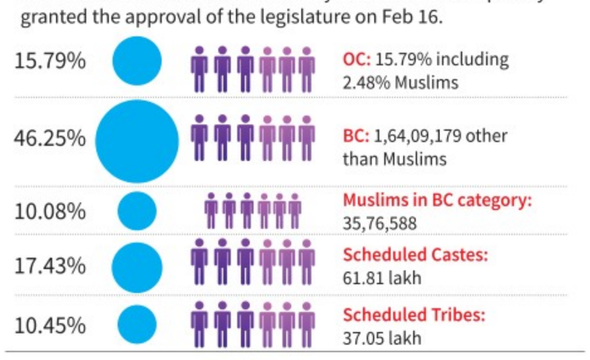
The commission submitted its report to the Cabinet sub-committee headed by Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday.

The session will be preceded by a meeting of the Cabinet, convened for discussing and adopting the two reports.

(With PTI inputs)

Total caste-wise population

The State Cabinet on February 4 last year approved the decision to conduct the caste survey and it was subsequently granted the approval of the legislature on Feb 16.



Khandre hits out at Kumaraswamy over remarks on KIOCL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister B. Eshwar Khandre on Monday hit out at Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy for alleging that the Congress government was plotting to close down Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) out of political vendetta.

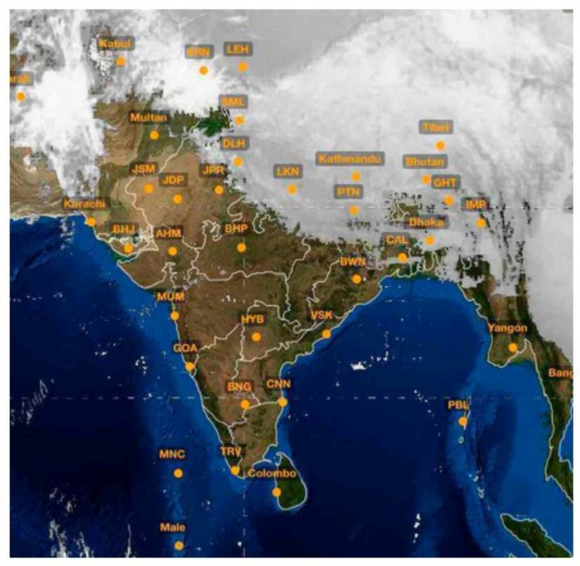
B. Eshwar Khandre

Mr. Khandre said that Mr. Kumaraswamy was falsely accusing the Karnataka government of such things to cover up KIOCL's wrongdoings, which include causing irreparable environmental damage and not paying the dues worth ₹1,400 crore to the Forest Department for damage to the environment when it undertook mining in Kudremukh area. He said that KIOCL illegally raised the height of the Lakya reservoir leading to submersion of forest land and KIOCL is liable to pay ₹1,349.52948 crore, including interest, and also return 1,334.33 hectares of land to the Forest Department. "Reports by the Central Empowered Committee, and the third report issued by the Public Accounts Committee of the 13th Legislative Assembly have clearly highlighted the environmental damage caused by KIOCL. The company violated regulations by using forest land for non-forestry purposes. Is demanding compensation for environmental damage political vendetta?" asked Mr. Khandre.

On the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) land issue, he said there were doubts over approval of forest land to HMT and the survey numbers and approval date were missing in the documents submitted by HMT.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lighting likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.6	17.8	Kozhikode	—	35.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	30.8	17.0	Kurnool	—	36.4	18.2
Aizawl	—	27.2	12.6	Lucknow	—	28.0	11.5
Allahabad	—	29.0	13.1	Madurai	—	34.0	22.7
Bengaluru	—	31.9	16.7	Mangaluru	—	32.9	23.1
Bhopal	—	32.1	14.8	Mumbai	—	29.8	16.6
Bhubaneswar	—	32.4	21.2	Mysuru	—	32.6	16.0
Chandigarh	—	20.3	10.0	New Delhi	—	24.4	10.2
Chennai	—	31.1	22.5	Patna	—	27.2	16.1
Coimbatore	—	33.0	22.0	Port Blair	—	30.4	22.4
Dehradun	—	25.0	8.1	Puducherry	—	31.6	21.6
Gangtok	—	10.3	8.4	Pune	—	37.1	20.3
Goa	—	35.0	22.0	Raipur	—	35.1	19.7
Guwahati	—	26.0	13.4	Ranchi	—	27.7	13.6
Hubballi	—	35.0	17.0	Shillong	—	16.1	5.4
Hyderabad	—	33.8	18.3	Shimla	—	21.5	6.2
Imphal	—	23.3	9.3	Srinagar	—	12.4	1.5
Jaipur	—	25.1	12.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	24.2
Kochi	—	32.4	25.8	Tiruchi	—	31.5	22.0
Kohima	—	18.4	5.8	Vijayawada	—	34.2	19.2
Kolkata	—	29.4	20.6	Visakhapatnam	—	31.7	19.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.45	..76	.30	...223	...154	
Bengaluru	.12	..14	.15	36	...113	
Chennai	.21	..43	100	23	97	
Delhi	.11	..85	104	...304	...204	
Hyderabad	...7	109	.22	57	...101	
Kolkata	...6	..32	.38	...213	...144	
Lucknow	.14	..72	.57	...242	...192	
Mumbai	.38	..66	.57	...172	...178	
Pune	.25	119	.58	...132	...118	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..82	.36	...127	...135	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Badlapur, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 300 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website : www.kimskoppal.com
email :directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523
NO:KIMS/KOPPAL/E-TENDER/SKILL LAB/ANASTHESIA EQUIPMENTS/2024-25/902 DATE: 01.02.2025
E-TENDER-NOTIFICATION
Tender is invited from Eligible interested Tenderer for 1) Supply of Skill Lab Equipments 2) Supply of Anesthesia Equipments to KIMS Koppal in a two cover Bid System through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Tenderer can download the tender document from Date: 05.02.2025 & tender uploading Last Date is 06.03.2025. Approximate Cost: Supply of Skill Lab Equipments -Rs.204.40 Lakhs & Supply of Anesthesia Equipments -Rs.600.00 Lakhs. The detailed tender schedule & other terms and conditions of tender can be viewed in tender document.
Sd/-Dean cum Director,
Koppal Institute of Medical Science, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/714/KSMCA/2024-25

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LTD
(Wholly owned Govt.of Karnataka under taking)
Corporate Office, Navanagar, PB Road, Hubballi-580025
mail.ID:seepmc.hescom@gmail.com
Phone:9449057833, Fax: 0836-2324307
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P2/AEE-2/2024-25/CYS-8183 Date: 01/02/2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Portal Only)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites tender for "Creation of electrical infrastructure network by extending 11kV HT lines, erection of 25KVA, enhancement of 25KVA by 63KVA 1-Star Rated Distribution Transformers and extension of 3 phase 4 wire LT line for Irrigation Pump Sets below 500 mtrs from existing electrical network registered before **Dt :22.09.2023** as per Order of GoK, in various O&M Section / Sub Divisionsin **Belagavi Zone on** Total Turn Key and Lump sum basis." **vide Indent No:HESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT 558 to 563, 565 to 570, 582, 587 to 589, 591 to 609 & 670 to 674.**
The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03.02.2025.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Projects Monitoring Cell,
HESCOM, Hubli.
DIPR/Dwd/916/DeshpandePublicity/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
CEO, HASSAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Phone No's: 08172-233824
TENDER SCHEDULE
E-TENDER FOR ENGAGING MANPOWER AGENCY TO PROCURE NRLM STAFFS TO ZILLA PANCHAYATH, HASSAN 1)TENDER REFERENCE NO & DATE: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಪಂಹಾ/ಯೋ.ನಿ/NRLM/ಹಪ.ಗು.ಟೆಂಡರ್/16/2024–25 DATE: 30/01/2025 2)APPROXIMATE VALUE OF TENDER: 1,50,00,000 3)EMD AMOUNT: 1.5% = 2,25,000 4)TENDER COMMENCEMENT DATE 01-02-2025 5)LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS: 02-03-2025 5.30 pm 6)TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BIDS 06-03-2025 11.30 am 7)TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF FINANCIAL BIDS 11-03-2025 11.30 am 8)LETTER OF INTENT 30-01-2025 9)CONTRACT: ONE YEAR 10)PRE-BID MEETING 11-02-2025 (11.00 am) 11)PLACE OF OPENING OF TENDERS: ZILLA PANCHAYATH, HASSAN
sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಟೆಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/902/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: KPTCL/B16/21723/2021-22(RL) Date: 01.02.2025
NOTIFICATION
In pursuance to KPTCL Employment Notification dated 01.02.2022, the Cut-Off Marks and the List of Candidates selected under Final Reserve List (Waiting List) for the post of **Assistant Engineer (Elec.) (KK/NKK) and Junior Engineer (Elec.)(KK/NKK)** in KPTCL is published in KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in/Recruitment**
Sd/- Director (Admn. & HR), Corporate Office,
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner,
Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.
No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/3195/2024-25 FORM - III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3) Date: 31-01-2025
PUBLIC NOTICE
In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by **The Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for "Widening of Nelagadaranahalli Main Road from Tumkur Road, NH-4 to Ganga International School a length of 2.40 Km in BBMP Limit" for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan - 2015 for the width of 18.00 Mtrs.**
The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.
The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.
List of Land / Building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.
Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru North** Name of the Village: **Nelagadaranahalli**

Sl. No.	Sy.No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the Land / Plot & Extent in Sq.m		Boundaries of the Land / Plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual House etc.,	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the Plot / Land for which DRC is to be issued
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted undeveloped	Approved Layout / Developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of Floors	Floor Area Ratio			
1	Sy. No. 13/1 Khatha No: 03	Vacant Land		Converted Land			43.50		Remaining Portion of Sy.No. 13/1	Road	Chokkasandra Village Boundary	Sy.No. 13/2	None	None	None	Vacant	80,000/- per Sqm	The Society of St. Paul No.23, Road, TPS III Bandra, Mumbai - 400050.

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No: ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024.
Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub Divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No. 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru - 560002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
"Kaushalya Bhavan" 3rd Floor, Near Dairy Circle,
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029,
Phone: 080-29522222 E-mail: skilldev.2017@gmail.com
Expression of Interest (EOI)
KSDC invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible and interested Industries / Industry Authorised Partners / Industrial Associations under ILC of CMKKY for submission of proposal under Letter of Intent (LOI) based Training for 20000 Graduates and Diploma holders who have registered in Yuvanidhi Portal and Placement for them in the financial year 2024-25 in the state of Karnataka. Last date for submission of proposal is 16.02.2025 at 16.00 Hrs. Interested and eligible Industries / Industry Authorised Partners / Industrial Associations may submit their proposals to the Managing Director, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, 3rd Floor, Kaushalya Bhavan, Near Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029. For details please contact KSDC Helpline No.: 1800 599 9918 or for clarification visit www.kaushalkar.com or email at eoi_rfp@kaushalkar.com
Sd/- Executive Director-2
KSDC
DIPR/CP/4769/AKAR/2024-25

Chitradurga Medical Collage and Research Institute, Chitradurga.
(Autonomous Institution of the Government of Karnataka)
Tel:08194-234710. Email: directorcimschitradurga@gmail.com
No: CMCARI /2024-25 Date:30/01/2025
NOTIFICATION
As per the government order, applications are invited in this office notifications for the vacant teaching posts sanctioned to Chitradurga Medical College, and direct interview for the candidates who have applied has been arranged from Date: 11/02/2025 to 15/02/2025 at Bangalore Medical and Research Institute (BMCRI) 1st Floor, Library Central Block, Kalasipalya, Bengaluru. The candidates who have applied are advised to appear for the interview as per the published notification in the website https://cmcrichitradurga.karnataka.gov.in/en .
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/537/2024-25
Sd/- Director, Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute, Chitradurga

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
email:ddpi.edu.karcmn@nic.in & ddpi.chn@gmail.com
Telephone No. : 08226 - 222406
No:B4(B8)/4678/RBSK/DEIC.K/01/2022-23 Date : 31-01-2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
To Facilitate All the Govt/Aided School Student's Medical Checkups, Health Education, to boost Psychological & Physical Health Under the scheme of Strengthening of DEIC & Support for RBSK programme, For the supply of laptops and medical equipment such as ENT, Psychiatric, Dentistry & Physiotherapy sections of DEIC Centre of the District Hospital, B. Rachaiah Double Road, Chamarajanagar District. Two-Cover Tender has been invited through e-procurement portal. The tendering authority shall have the right to accept and reject all bids of the tender.
Estimated Tender cost : Rs. 55.74 Lakhs
Last date to apply for the Tender : 10/02/2025 by 05:00 PM
Competent tenderers and authorized agencies can participate in the said tender process. Full details will be available in the tender document. For more information, you can refer to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority & DDPI (Admin),
Department of School Education
Chamarajanagar District
DIPR : CHANAGAR:581:2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
BRIEF SHORT TERM/ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal only)
KPCL invites tenders from the contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/ Company and having past experience for the following works through GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**
(1) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2549 Dated: 30.01.2025 Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Unit-3 Level Control Valves. **EMD: Rs.1,80,000/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **07.02.2025.**
(2) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2545 Dated: 29.01.2025 RTPS-210 MW Chemical cleaning of Condenser tubes for Unit-4. **EMD: Rs.1,16,000/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **06.02.2025.** For details contact: **Executive Engineer (TM-1),** Mobile: 9449597971.
(3) KPCL/2024-25/IND1364/CALL-2 Procurement of Spares of Clinkder Grinder and Bottom Ash Hoppers for Unit- 5, 6 & 8. **EMD: Rs1,71,000/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **10.02.2025, 16.00 Hrs.**
(4) KPCL/2024-25/IND1357/CALL-2 Procurement of Welding transformer and welding machine for BM division of RTPS. **EMD: Rs.23,500/-.**
(5) KPCL/2024-25/IND1358/CALL-2 Procurement of Water valves for Units - 1 to 4 boilers of RTPS. **EMD: Rs.2,500/-.** Last date for submission of tender: For Sl. No. 4 & 5: **13.02.2025, 16.00 Hrs.** For details contact: **Executive Engineer (Purchase),** Mobile: 9449597966. E-mail: eeprtps@gmail.com
(6) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT2494/CALL-2 Date: 28.01.2025 Civil connected works of UCB-4 under C&I - R&M works of Unit-4 at RTPS. Contractor **Class-III and above** registered in KPWD. Amount put to tender: **Rs.76.58 Lakhs (Excluding GST).**
(7) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT2412/CALL-4 Date: 28.01.2025 Civil connected works of UCB-4 under R&M works - construction of new additional Control room adjacent to existing PLC Control Room for installation of PLC SCADA HMI station and new UPS systems and providing false ceiling for existing PLC Control room at RTPS. Contractor **Class-IV and above** registered in KPWD. Amount put to tender: **Rs.8.429 Lakhs (Excluding GST).** Fo details contact: **Executive Engineer (PCM-2),** Mobile: 9449596582, during office hours.
(8) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT2501 Date: 29.01.2025 Improvement works to Krishna Guest House at RTPS Colony. **Class-III and above** PWD contractors are eligible. Amount put to tender: **Rs.54.83 Lakhs.** For details contact: **Executive Engineer (CCM),** KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur Dist. Mobile: 9480682521 during office hours.

Green and clean

India must formulate a critical minerals framework that is just and equitable

India has come a long way in its attempt to transition to cleaner forms of power in the past decade. This is partly reflected in the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy between fiscal years 2015 (BE ₹1,535 crore) and 2025 (BE ₹32,626 crore). But these allocations, other than in 2015 and 2023, have been underutilised, leading to lower revised estimates (REs). However, this does not fully reflect the clean energy journey. India attempted a major leap with the PM-KUSUM scheme in 2019, a year ahead of the COVID-19 disruptions, with an outlay of ₹34,422 crore. The scheme envisaged having off-grid solar irrigation pumps and grid-connected solar plants on fallow farmlands. While PM-KUSUM has received a tepid response, with less than half a gigawatt of installed capacity, the realisation that energy transition is both a desirable outcome and a requirement occurred during the COVID-19 years, when there were major supply chain disruptions to coal, oil and gas. This led to India pledging to produce half its energy requirements from renewables in about five years from now, at COP26 in 2021.

It was the 2021 Budget that heralded the clean energy shift, with ₹18,100 crore for a PLI scheme for advanced chemistry cell manufacturing to augment India's grid-scale battery storage capacity. A ₹4,500 crore PLI scheme for solar photovoltaic modules went up to ₹19,500 crore in 2022. But the government also decided to levy a 40% basic customs duty (BCD) on solar modules and 25% on solar cells to reduce the overwhelming import dependence on China. However, this slowed solar power installations nationwide with prices rising. And even while renewables constitute 46% of India's total installed capacity (October 2024), 70% of its power output is from coal. Experts have pointed to the need for grid-scale battery storage technology to augment India's renewables output, as intermittent RE production leads to the continued reliance on fossil-fuel based power. With the realisation that steep BCDs could be inflationary and counterproductive to localising production, particularly in the capital-intensive lithium-ion battery technology sector, the government has announced that it will exempt 12 critical minerals and 35 capital goods from BCDs. But reducing dependence on China for energy transition resources and technology would also require India showing leadership in formulating a critical minerals framework, that is socially and environmentally just during extraction, and equitable in its distribution. With the U.S. withdrawing its leadership position in these areas, India must aim to play a bigger role.

Tariff turmoil

Donald Trump is triggering a trade war over unrelated bilateral issues

President Donald Trump set the cat among the pigeons globally when he introduced a slew of punishing tariffs on trade with Canada, Mexico, and China, with even more taxes promised for other trading partners in the months ahead. Markets in Japan, South Korea and across Asia were roiled as fears peaked of the fallout on supply chains for North America, particularly in sectors such as automobiles, which have enjoyed the strong presence of foreign investment for decades. Over the weekend, Mr. Trump signed three executive orders that slapped Canadian and Mexican goods with a tariff of 25%. Only Canadian energy products were spared – a 10% tax will be applied. The White House further announced, in line with the promises Mr. Trump made on the campaign trail, a 10% tax on goods from China. Beijing responded angrily, saying that it would file a lawsuit with the WTO against the U.S. for "wrongful practice", even as it said that it would take "necessary countermeasures...." While Ottawa and Mexico City warned that retaliatory tariffs would be coming soon, Mr. Trump's subsequent calls to Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum led to a one-month pause before the tariffs kicked in, and the White House appeared to strike a conciliatory note with Mr. Trump speaking to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as well. Meanwhile Mr. Trump has suggested that the EU was next in the firing line, even though the U.K. appeared to win a modicum of a reprieve for issues with Washington.

While tariffs are traditionally applied sparingly, and mostly in cases of trade imbalances in the context of artificial price barriers imposed by one country that impact its trading partners, the official reasoning supplied by the Trump White House for its tariff plan was that it would serve to address the "national emergency" resulting from "the extraordinary threat posed by illegal aliens and drugs, including deadly fentanyl". On one hand, this opens the floodgates to other nations retaliating to U.S. tariffs and dampening world trade at a time when global economic growth prospects are precarious. The move also signals that it is acceptable for nations to weaponise tariffs as a countermeasure against unrelated intercountry disputes. Few would deny Mr. Trump's administration the prerogative that it enjoys to crackdown on the U.S.'s "ridiculous Open Borders" – but most would have imagined that this process would entail intensified law enforcement activity rather than internecine tariffs. The tariffs will almost certainly have a deleterious effect on the prices that American consumers pay for imported products, besides a broader inflationary impact through higher input prices across industries. Perhaps it will take a full four years of economic pain in the U.S. before the realisation dawns that tariffs are hardly a panacea to curb immigration and drug inflows.

Some wind behind the sails of India's shipping industry

Amitabh Kumar

a retired IRS officer, is former Director General, Shipping, Government of India

The government deserves credit for its commitment to develop the maritime sector, largely neglected by predecessor governments. This is reflected in the expenditure on the government's flagship programme, Sagarmala, which, as on September 2024, had outlined 839 projects requiring an investment of ₹5.8 lakh crore by 2035. Of these, 241 projects, worth ₹1.22 lakh crore, have been completed, while 234 projects, valued at ₹1.8 lakh crore, are under implementation. Additionally, 364 projects, with an estimated investment of ₹2.78 lakh crore, are in various stages of development.

Within Sagarmala, ₹2.91 lakh crore (over 50%) is allocated for port modernisation; ₹2.06 lakh crore (more than 35%) for port connectivity; ₹55.8 thousand crore (10%) for port-led industrialisation, the remaining 5% distributed between coastal community development, infrastructure for coastal shipping (not ship acquisition) and inland water transport.

India's economy has seen GDP rising from ₹153 trillion in 2016-17 to ₹272 trillion in 2022-23 – an increase of 43%, growing at a CAGR of 7%, despite two years of COVID-19 related setbacks. The economy is projected to reach $3.7 trillion this year, $5 trillion by 2027, and $7 trillion by 2030.

During this period, India's EXIM trade has also grown from $66 billion in 2016-17 to $116 billion in 2022, a cumulative increase of over 77% and an annual growth rate of 12.83%. India aims to boost exports to $2 trillion by 2030, to strengthen its global trade position.

The industry continues to face stagnation

Despite high economic growth and increased investments in the maritime sector, the Indian shipping industry has remained stagnant. According to statistics by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the cargo handled at major ports has only marginally increased from 1,071.76 million tons in 2016-17 to 1,249.99 million tons in 2020-21 – a cumulative growth of 14.26% or an annual increase of just 2.85%. In contrast, the number of vessels handled at these ports has actually declined by 5.93%, from 21,655 vessels in 2016-17 to 20,371 in 2020-21.

In terms of Indian-registered ships, the number has increased from 1,313 in 2016-17 to 1,526 in September 2024 – a cumulative rise of 16.77% and an average annual growth of 2.4%. Over the same period, gross tonnage has grown from 11,547,576 GT in 2016-17 to 13,744,897 GT – a cumulative increase of 17.44% and an annual average growth of 2.5%.

A major concern has been the aging Indian fleet, with the average vessel age rising to 26 years in 2022-23. However, this has now improved to 21 years, with the addition of 34 relatively younger vessels (average age of 14 years) in 2024. In comparative terms, India's global ranking in ship ownership declined from 17 to 19, highlighting the need for reforms.

Clearly, the assumption that increased investment in ports would automatically drive growth in Indian shipping has been proven wrong.

In reality, Indian shipping has continued to lose market to foreign-flag vessels in carrying Indian EXIM cargo and to rail and road transport for domestic cargo. The reason is simple: the needs of shipowners and shipbuilders are vastly different from those of port and terminal operators.

The Union Budget appears to have met most of the shipping industry's demands; but it has missed an opportunity to address tax disparities

Multiple challenges such as in shipbuilding

Indian shipping faces multiple challenges hindering its competitiveness: lack of capital and high borrowing costs; short loan tenures, rigid collateral requirements requiring shipowners additional security instead of using ships as collateral; limited understanding of the industry's cyclical nature, leading to inflexible loan restructuring policies; unfavourable taxation laws often favouring foreign-flag vessels over Indian vessels even within Indian waters; delays in repatriating funds for ship acquisitions; stringent regulatory requirements, and additional financial burdens on mandatory training of Indian seafarers and higher port charges, further eroding competitiveness.

In contrast, ships registered in tax havens or flags of convenience – benefit from easier access to capital, lower borrowing costs, lenient regulatory standards, concealed ownership structures, and minimal regulatory oversight. This makes Indian-flagged vessels significantly less competitive in global shipping markets.

Beyond capital constraints, India's shipbuilding industry also struggles with: inadequate infrastructure for constructing large vessels; high input costs, particularly on steel; a weak ancillary industry leading to dependency on imports; customs duties on imported machinery and spare parts, increasing production costs, and skill gaps that limit workforce efficiency.

Additionally, funding challenges for shipowners and delays in new-build vessel deliveries deter potential buyers from investing in Indian shipyards, further weakening the domestic shipbuilding sector.

The Indian National Shipowners Association has for long advocated measures to ease capital constraints and eliminate discriminatory tax policies. Two key recommendations, i.e., the creation of a Maritime Development Fund (MDF) and granting infrastructure status to ships, were incorporated into the Maritime India Vision 2030. Additionally, industry stakeholders have been pushing for the removal of the 5% IGST on ship capital costs and the exemption of Indian seafarers from TDS requirements.

Except for tax-related relief, most of the industry's long-standing demands appear to have been addressed in the Union Budget.

The government has announced: a ₹25,000 crore MDF; Infrastructure status for large vessels; facilitation of shipbuilding clusters; a 10-year extension of the basic customs duty exemption on shipbuilding spares and equipment; a revamped financial assistance policy for shipbuilding; credit incentives for shipbreaking in Indian yards, and an extension of the tonnage tax scheme to inland vessels.

However, the devil lies in the details. The government's contribution to the MDF will only be 49%, with the remainder to come from major ports. It is unclear whether the ₹25,000 crore will be mobilised in a single year or over multiple years. Given the high capital intensity of shipping, shipbuilding, and port sectors, this amount may still fall short of industry needs.

The aging Indian shipping fleet requires urgent replacement, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets will necessitate investments in green technology. The sector requires long-term financing with lower interest rates and repayment tenures of 7-10 years. Additionally, India needs new shipyards to build large vessels and the expansion and modernisation of existing ones. Although Sagarmala has infused funds in ports, additional funds may still be necessary for modernisation, despite transitioning to a landlord model.

If the MDF is strategically utilised to attract external commercial borrowings (ECBs) at lower interest rates, it could help bridge the funding gap across the maritime sector.

Glaring tax disparities

The Budget appears to have missed a crucial opportunity to address the tax disparities that put Indian ships at a comparative disadvantage to foreign ships, even when operating along the Indian coast. Indian-flagged vessels are subject to a 5% IGST on purchase price, a levy not imposed on foreign-flagged ships. Additionally, Indian shipping companies must deduct tax at source (TDS) on seafarers' salaries, whereas foreign vessels employing Indian seafarers face no such obligation.

The Budget 2025 is a promising step but must not become another half-measure in the name of shipping reforms. The industry needs decisive action, not just incremental progress.

The views expressed are personal

The kind of jobs needed for the 'Viksit Bharat' goal

Saubhagya Raizada

is an independent policy researcher based in Delhi and has a Masters in Public Policy from the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

The Union Budget has been presented, and this is the right time to outline the three kinds of jobs this writer believes India must create. Beyond reviving private consumption in urban areas, we must continue to strengthen long-term job creation and real wage growth across India.

The 2024 Budget had introduced Employment Linked Incentives (ELI) under the Prime Minister's five-scheme initiative, designed to create over four crore jobs over five years with a central outlay of ₹2 lakh crore. The Prime Minister's internship scheme saw significant traction in 2024, with 6.21 lakh applications for 1.27 lakh opportunities. The outcomes on the rest four – beyond a draft Cabinet note on ELI and meetings by DPIIT with the Ministry of Labour and CII, remain to be seen. But there must be more deliberation on the kind of jobs we wish to create for a Viksit Bharat.

Impact of climate change

First, climate-resilience. India was the seventh most-affected country by climate change in 2019, having suffered an income loss of $159 billion in 2021, and according to the Reserve Bank of India, will face adaptation costs of nearly $1 trillion by 2030. The impact on agricultural and labour productivity and also livelihoods requires exponentially higher levels of funding for building rural and urban adaptation capabilities and the rejuvenation of local ecosystems to boost job creation.

To meet the net-zero targets by 2070, the Government must create and incentivise jobs which are "climate-resilient" by maximising all "co-benefits" (IPCC). This could mean providing three to four state-subsidised e-rickshaws in about 6,00,000 villages to create about two million jobs (focused on women drivers), also improving last-mile mobility. Or, there can be new ways to enable private investment in compressed biogas plants to bridge the gap of 82 plants set-up versus the target of 5,000 set (for FY23-24) in 2018. Or, even accelerating achieving the 500GW non-fossil energy capacity target to create over one million jobs, with stronger support for decentralised and rooftop solar which can be seven times more labour-intensive (CEEW).

Long-term structural reforms must result in climate-resilient, AI-resilient and aspiration-centric jobs

On AI resilience

Second, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-resilience. With the rise of generative AI, numerous jobs now have 50-plus% automation potential. Scenarios by McKinsey Global Institute show that 50% automation adoption in India can happen in the next 10 years. India's IT and business services, which comprised 70-plus% of services exports (Economic Survey 2021), hope to create millions skilled talent exports. But their employment potential can be limited in the gen AI-era as labour gets costlier relative to capital. With the launch of metaGPT simulating software companies, AI writing 25% of Google's code, and layoffs due to chatbots even in India, new jobs will also need to prioritise physical engagement and utilise our human 'creativity', which this writer terms as AI-resilience. This can take the form of larger education and health budgets to plug the deficit of millions of health-care professionals and teachers across states or dedicated financing for the National Rural Livelihood Mission to facilitate global and urban market linkages of local products, crafts, and knowledge of farmers and artisans in rural India.

Being aspiration-centric

Third, being aspiration centric. Despite their growing engagement with the startup culture, rural youth continue to have low confidence due to deeper insecurities from poor foundational education (this includes English) and resource-deprived upbringing. This can reinforce dependency on government jobs and 'coaching' to 'crack' entrance exams. As their aspirations are shaped by their socio-economic backgrounds, digital media, and interaction of the '*Samaaj*, *Sarkaar*, and *Bazaar*', the slow growth of non-farm jobs warrants off-farm job-creation which responds to these dynamic aspirations.

This can take the form of rapid infrastructure development such as building around 70,000 integrated pack-houses, plugging the 95-plus% infrastructure gap, to create over two million jobs. Or, boosting productivity and value-addition for high import/export-share items and tech-enabled local manufacturing of agri-inputs.

Greater use of tech, social media, and rebranding the 'rural' can also help make off-farm jobs aspirational for India's youth. One clear avenue is accelerating the 'National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds' to reduce India's 57% import-dependence of edible-oil back to the pre-WTO levels with the revitalised rural processing of native oilseeds like soybean, sunflower (about 40% of edible-oil imports), and boosting retail of in-vogue cold-pressed oils. Enabling creation of many such large-scale businesses with private-public partnerships and investments, can address economic aspirations of our disheartened youth protesting examination leaks and low recruitment vacancies.

While tax relief may temporarily boost urban consumer demand, amidst growing household indebtedness and suboptimal private investment trends, the Centre can demonstrate greater commitment for long-term structural reforms which create these climate-resilient, AI-resilient and aspiration-centric jobs. Many opportunities exist as we embark towards our shared vision of a Viksit Bharat.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A closer look at the Budget

The Budget's announcement of increasing the personal income-tax exemption limit has been projected as a relief for the middle class. However, while it may benefit a fraction of the population, the story lies in the larger economic reality. The so-called "relief" benefits only a minuscule segment of taxpayers, while the vast majority of Indians, including lower-income groups, remain untouched by any direct relief.

The poor and lower-middle-class populations, who barely earn enough to sustain themselves, end up paying more in indirect taxes on essential goods and services. If the government truly intends to provide relief to the common man, the focus must shift towards rationalising GST rates on essential goods, particularly food items, medicines, and utilities, rather than presenting superficial tweaks in income-tax slabs that benefit only a select few. A progressive tax structure, coupled with GST reforms that shield the economically weaker sections, is the only way to ensure equitable taxation. It is high time that tax policies prioritise inclusive economic growth rather than optics that favour a limited population segment.

Pavithra M.,
Tiruchi

Populism can be fiercely competitive when it comes to poll-oriented freebies, because all parties indulge in this culture of giving away what is taken by way of taxes from the rich and the middle classes. It hardly needs to be reminded that the present dispensation has been voted in thrice, largely on account of a northern (Indian) bias.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

The NDA government has not stopped patting itself on the back for the rise in the exemption limit for income-tax with the Finance Minister also saying she had a 'tough time convincing the bureaucrats in her ministry'. This is pure balderdash ("We heard the voice of the middle class, says Nirmala Sitharaman on tax relief", February 3). It is not so much the voice of the middle class that influenced the decision of the Finance Minister but the Delhi elections. The voice of the middle class has been a cry in the wilderness in all the Budgets presented by the NDA so far.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

Eliminating elitism in mental health

Shivang Tripathi

Doctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University

Karishma Kabadwal

Doctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, in its year-end review report for 2024, stated that all States and Union Territories are expected to complete the process of harmonisation and pre-publication of draft rules for the new Labour Codes by March 31, 2025. This provides an efficient window for the government to consider the incorporation of provisions that create a liability-based framework to ensure the mental health of workers, especially those in the blue-collar category.

In 2024, for the first time, mental health was acknowledged as an 'impactful driver' for individual and national development in the Economic Survey. The Survey also noted that, 10.6% of adults in India suffered from mental disorders, with the treatment gap ranging between 70% and 92% depending on the specific condition (National Mental Health Survey 2015-16). The World Health Organization, in its fact sheet on mental health at work, outlined several risks, including excessive workloads or rapid work pace, long unsocial and inflexible hours, unsafe or poor physical working conditions, job insecurity, inadequate pay, and conflicting home/work demands. These risks primarily impact blue-collar workers due to their demanding jobs, unsafe work environments, and a lack of adequate legislative and policy protections. The time has come for the government to address the challenge of increasing elitism in the field of mental health and the well-being of workers, highlighting the significant disparity between blue-collar and white-collar employees concerning legislative and policy frameworks.

Challenges

First, in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSHWC), 2020, the concept of occupational safety is limited to physical safety in the course of employment. This implicitly excludes mental well-being and safety norms of a preventive nature. For instance, Section 6(1)(d) uses the phrase 'as far as reasonably practicable' while creating a mandate for the employer to provide a working environment that is safe and without any health risks. Defining the ambit of this phrase is left to the Central government, which will notify it from time to time. Moreover, its conjoint reading with Sections 23 and 24 of the OSHWC provides a narrow connotation of 'health,' confining it to physical well-being and excluding mental health.

Second, as per the definition of 'employment injury' under Section 2(28) of the Code on Social Security (CSC), 2020, read with the third schedule, the employee can claim compensation under Section 74 of the CSC only if personal injury is caused by an 'accident or an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment'. The third schedule nowhere enlists diseases arising out of mental strain attributed to the course of employment. Moreover, it tends to create a legislative mandate upon the victim to establish a direct link between the injury and the occupation before the adjudicating authority. In contrast, the Bombay High Court in Laxmibai Atmaram v. Chairman and Trustees, Bombay Port Trust (1953) expanded the scope of 'occupational injury,' observing that even if the employment is merely a contributory cause or an accelerating mechanism, the disease-employment combination shall be deemed to be established.

Third, some major companies are making substantial efforts to enhance the well-being, work-life balance, and mental health of their white-collar employees. The HALE (Health Assistance and Lifestyle Enrichment) Program by Infosys, Wipro's 'Mitra' initiative, and the Employee Assistance Program by Tata Consultancy Services are some examples. In contrast, the Central government's praiseworthy Tele Manas initiative bridges the gap between its callers and mental health professionals, but its functionality requires beneficiaries to voluntarily make the distress call to the helpline number. The lack of awareness about such initiatives among blue-collar workers, coupled with their inherent hesitation to take any such step, dilutes the objective of these initiatives.

The way forward

To realise the goal of 'Satyamev Jayate to Shramev Jayate,' as the Prime Minister envisioned in 2014, mental health of blue-collar workers ought to be given due precedence. First, a rights and duty-based legislative framework that balances the employer's right to get the job done with the concomitant duty to provide a safe and healthy work environment ensuring both the physical and mental well-being of workers would be a progressive step. Second, the list of 'occupational diseases' under the third schedule of the CSC calls for a legislative attempt to provide holistic coverage of diseases arising from mental strain attributed to employment and working conditions, thereby leaving less room for judicial interpretation on a case-by-case basis. Third, the upcoming Labour Codes have the opportunity to create a tripartite relationship between employers, blue-collar workers, and mental health specialists. Fourth, amidst multiple statements made recently by reputed CEOs regarding 70 to 90-hour workweeks, emphasising quantity over quality and well-being, the government must take steps towards forging a sustainable work environment for blue-collar workers. Fifth, creating awareness regarding governmental initiatives such as Tele Manas must be statutorily imposed on employers. Lastly, blue-collar workers also need to be acknowledged as stakeholders in the mental health discourse before this becomes a case of lost opportunity.

It is time to give the mental health of blue-collar workers due precedence

The precarious road to development

In J&K, development projects are leading to ecological ruin and displacing people

STATE OF PLAY

Bilal Ahmad Wagay
Ummar Jamal

The government's ambitious proposals to construct highways and develop satellite townships in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have led to fear among the locals, who feel that these projects could disrupt the region's delicate ecological balance, displace communities, and alter the demographic and cultural fabric.

In 2021, the government approved a semi-ring road project and acquired 900 acres of cultivated agricultural land for it. The district that is most affected by this project is Budgam, followed by Pulwama, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Baramulla. This mega project, aimed at reducing traffic in the Kashmir Valley, will be implemented in two phases. Farmers worry about their livelihoods as thousands of apple, plum, and pear trees have already been axed to clear the land for the construction of the new highway, which the locals fear will be used for the security and tourism purposes alone. The project will feature numerous infrastructure elements, including 290 culverts, two road over bridges, two flyovers, 10 major junctions, 26 minor junctions, and a toll plaza at the Narbal junction.

J&K is predominantly an agrarian economy. More than 80% of the population is directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. This mass acquisition of land has exerted tremendous pressure on the land resources of J&K, which has some of the smallest land holdings in the country. The landowners were not compensated adequately for the loss

of their land. This is because they received compensation not under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013, but under the Jammu and Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, 1934, which was removed from the statute books after the dilution of Article 370. In J&K's rural economy, commercial apple farming and its value chain is the mainstay of the economy. This generates an estimated revenue of around ₹1,500 crore. Transforming such fertile lands into construction sites will be disastrous for the region's economy and ruin the livelihoods of lakhs of people.

In May 2022, a notification under the J&K Town Planning Act, 1963, imposed a moratorium on land transactions within 500 meters of the ring road. However, in October 2024, the Housing Board announced in a notification plans for establishing 30 satellite townships along the semi-ring road. Each township will cover an average area of 200 hectares, requiring a total of 6,000 hectares, most of which is agricultural land. These settlements risk displacing people and leaving marginal farmers landless as a significant portion of land has already been acquired and more land is expected to be acquired soon.

Ever since J&K became a Union Territory in 2019, there has been a thrust on development. The government has either proposed new projects or given a fillip to already commissioned projects, which have been languishing due to paucity of funds. The unrestrained march of infrastructure development in the region is leading to ecological ruin and social displacement. While the government has promised enhanced connectivity and economic progress, these projects strike at the heart of the region's fragile ecosystems and hurt its agrarian backbone. The destruction of agricultural lands and orchards will strip the region of its biodiversity, displace wildlife, and erode its green cover. Construction activities will accelerate soil erosion, rendering land infertile and crippling agricultural output.

J&K has 14.3 lakh farming households and an average landholding of just 0.25 hectares. It contributes 80% of India's temperate fruit production. Yet, massive land acquisitions for infrastructure projects, often carried out without robust social impact assessments, are dismantling these livelihoods.

Calamities such as the 2014 floods have laid bare the ecological fragility of the region. The blind pursuit of urbanisation and the relentless push for building highways, railways, and satellite townships heightens the risk of more such disasters. This is not progress – it is a slow, methodical unravelling of J&K's ecological integrity and the livelihoods that depend on it. Without urgent course correction, the price of this so-called progress will be borne by generations to come.

Bilal Wagay teaches Politics at Government Degree College Beerwah, Jammu and Kashmir; and Ummar Jamal is a student activist and national president of the J&K Students Association

The cause and effects of the U.S.'s withdrawal from WHO

Survey results indicate a growing negative sentiment among Americans towards the global public health body

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

Signing his first batch of executive orders following his return to the White House on January 20, 2025, Donald Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). Mr. Trump accused WHO of being biased towards China and mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not the first time Mr. Trump has chosen to withdraw from the WHO. He took steps to leave the organisation in 2020 for the same reason. However, the Joe Biden administration decided to continue the partnership.

Close to 45% of Americans agreed with Mr. Trump's assessment back in 2020, according to the Global Attitudes Survey conducted by the Pew Research Center. The share of people with a similar opinion in the U.K. was 10 points lower at 34% and even lower at 31% and 30% in Canada and Germany, respectively **(Chart 1)**.

In a 2024 survey by Pew, close to 40% of U.S. citizens said the country was benefiting "not at all" or "not too much" from being a member of the WHO compared to the 34% who said so in 2021. **Chart 2** shows the respondents' views on whether the U.S. gains from WHO membership. These trends indicate a growing negative sentiment among Americans towards WHO.

Republicans were only half as likely as Democrats to say that the U.S. benefits from the WHO. While close to 80% of Democrats or Democratic-leaning people said in 2024 that the U.S. benefits from the WHO, only 38% of Republicans and Republican-leaning respondents said so **(Chart 3)**. The figure declined even further if only conservative Republicans were considered. Such opinions could have potentially influenced Mr. Trump's decision.

As per the latest executive order, the U.S. will pause the future transfer of any funds, support, or resources to WHO. This is a massive blow to WHO as the U.S. is its largest contributor. The U.S. has consistently contributed close to 15% of WHO's total funding since at least 2016-17. Its share dipped to 8.9% during 2020-21, when COVID-19 was at its peak, but went back again to the usual levels in the post-pandemic years. It contributed a record $1.2 billion in the biennium period for 2022-23 **(Chart 4)**.

WHO's other major contributors in the latest year (2024-25) include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (12.9%), the GAVI Alliance (9.91%), the European Commission (8.06%) and the World Bank (5.34%). The share of contributions from China accounted for 3%.

Will some other country step up to fill the financial vacuum left by the U.S.? Those are big shoes to fill as no country's contribution has exceeded 5% of the total funding received by WHO. Among countries, Germany and the U.K. are in a distant second and third place, respectively, as per latest data.

Chart 5 shows how the funds from the U.S. are being utilised by WHO. In 2024-25, close to 26% of the funds were used to improve access to quality health services globally, 21% to respond rapidly to acute health emergencies, 20% for polio eradication, and close to 10% for prevention of epidemics and pandemics. Mr. Trump's decision to halt funding will have a cascading effect on these initiatives.

The President's order also calls for the recall and reassignment of U.S. personnel working in any capacity with the global public health body. This could potentially impact the staff in WHO collaboration centres in the U.S. These centres implement WHO's objectives and engage in collaborative research with the institutions it is a part of. The U.S. has the most number of WHO collaborating centres (79), followed by India and China, as shown in **Chart 6**.

Withdrawal symptoms

The data for the charts were sourced from the Pew Research Center's surveys and the World Health Organization

Chart 1: WHO's handling of the pandemic was...

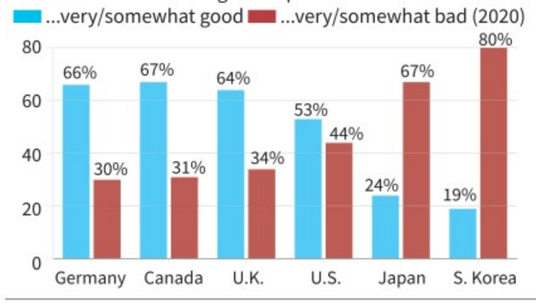


Chart 2: % of Americans who said the U.S. benefits _____ from being a member of WHO

Chart 3: The views of Republicans(▬) and Democrats (▬) on whether the U.S. gains from WHO

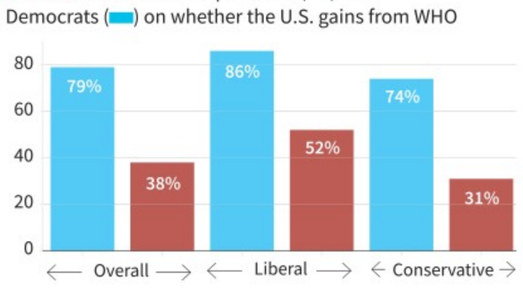


Chart 4: The chart shows the share of the U.S.'s contributions to WHO's total funding

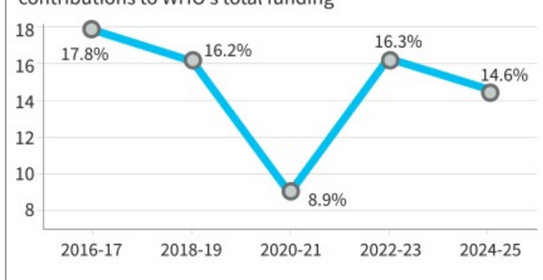


Chart 5: The chart shows how the funds from the U.S. are being utilised by WHO

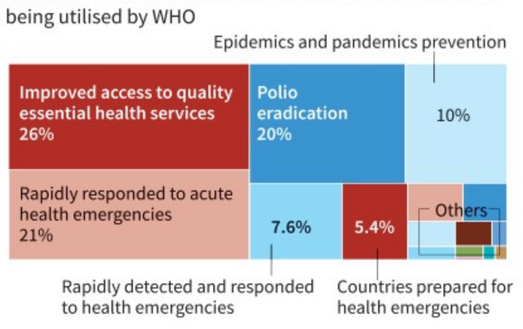
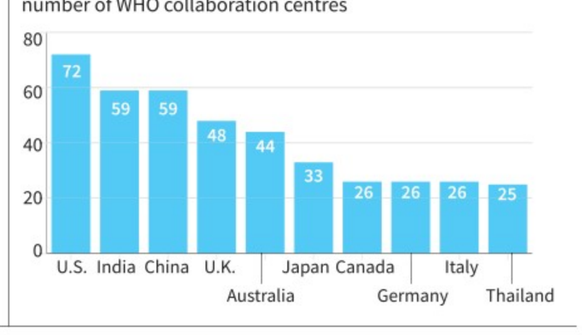


Chart 6: The chart shows the top 10 countries with the most number of WHO collaboration centres



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1975

Ford seeks $6.8 billions for foreign aid

Washington, Feb. 3: The United States President, Mr. Gerald Ford, to-day submitted to Congress a $6.8 billions foreign aid budget – $four billions for economic, food and financial aid and the rest in military assistance.

The budget message calls for "give away" expenditures of more than $one billion in such commodities as wheat, feed grains, food products, vegetable oils, dried milk and other products.

Also listed was an extra $620 millions in the current fiscal year for the Food for Peace programme.

The $2.8 billions request for military aid in fiscal year 1976 was $700 millions above the previous budget, not counting the $552 millions Mr. Ford has requested in extra help this year for South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Projected economic assistance included a request for $762 millions for post-war reconstruction in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and a "special requirement fund" of $12 millions for West Asia.

In addition, an "emergency security assistance" fund of $659 millions was requested for Israel.

The budget called for $268 millions to continue the United States Information Agency, which has been under attack by sectors of Congress as superfluous, new facilities for the Voice of America, in the Far East, and increased grants for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which broadcast to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1925

Penny postage

London, Feb. 3: A deputation representing of printings and paper making industries urged the Postmaster General to restore the penny postage contending that such restoration would stimulate trade, reduce unemployment, and half the home export trade. It was pointed out that sales of picture postcards in New Zealand has increased by 25 per cent since New Zealand reduced her postal rates, and South Africa was about to restore the penny postage. Therefore the moment was opportune for its reintroduction in Britain. It was mentioned that the income from advertisements exhibited in post-offices now amounted to 22,000 yearly.

From Page One

Rupee breaches 87 against dollar

"Each country takes a decision which it assesses to be in their best interest as a sovereign entity, just as we decide what we feel is the best interest of India and Indian people. In sovereign decision-making, there is nothing wrong, because this is the assessment of that particular country. The only things in our hand is – how do we deal with that uncertainty?" the Secretary said.

"What happens in the rest of the world whether the global growth rate is X or Y – that is given to us, we have to deal with it that and in spite of that factor, we have to do what we have to do. If there's this headwind, it means we must have a more powerful engine to move forward. That is what we try to do," Mr. Seth explained.

The government's focus, he said, is on making India more self-reliant by developing competitive advantages where it doesn't have them. "This is a nuanced approach and we should be clear about it. Second, we should not create cost disadvantages through the tariff policy or through our regulations, and clean up those areas. So this Budget again tries to clean up those areas," he said.

Campaigning for Delhi Assembly election ends

The BJP, making another push to come back to power after 28 years, saw a rally blitz in the capital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed two rallies before and three rallies after announcement of polls. Senior BJP leaders addressed rallies promising to push a developmental agenda and attacked the AAP on alleged corruption and failure to deliver on its promises in the past two terms.

The AAP, trying to retain power for a fourth term, asked people to vote for it to continue receiving free electricity, a promise of 24X7 water, continuing to improve education and healthcare. The party warned voters that if the BJP comes to power, it will roll back the welfare schemes such as free electricity and water – a narrative that the BJP has repeatedly tried to dismiss, with even Mr. Modi frequently assuring it won't happen.

The Congress campaign was spearheaded by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who lashed out at the AAP and the BJP for not keeping their promises. The Congress said it would bring back the pace of development seen in Sheila Dikshit's regime. The party is trying to make a comeback after being reduced to zero seats in Delhi for a decade.

The BJP is contesting 68 seats, after giving two seats to its NDA allies JD(U) and the LJP.

Meanwhile, several parties from the the INDIA bloc lent their support to the AAP instead of the Congress.

While the BJP held nearly 200 rallies over the past few days with Chief Ministers of several BJP-run States chipping in, the AAP's campaign revolved around Mr. Kejriwal addressing a minimum of three rallies a day for the past fortnight.

The AAP leader, while accepting that there was work yet to be done, asked for a third term, pitching employment, and saving the middle class.

SC to wait for CFSL report on 'Biren' audio

Mr. Mehta sought to dismiss the submission by Mr. Bhushan, saying Truth Labs was a private organisation. Mr. Bhushan said its reports had been extensively used in court as evidence.

Chief Justice Khanna reminded the petitioner that the "State was slowly limping back to normalcy". The court would look into whether the case ought to be referred to the Manipur High Court.

Justice Kumar, at the beginning of the court session, announced in open court that Chief Minister Singh had hosted a dinner for him when he was elevated to the Supreme Court. Justice Kumar was the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court till his appointment to the top court. The judge said he was ready to recuse if the parties wanted him to do so.

"There is no issue whatsoever... Not one bit," Mr. Bhushan responded.

Mr. Mehta submitted the court must be mindful that the petitioner may have "some ideological baggage... separatist, etc".

"Reports submitted by the Supreme Court-appointed committee had said the civil society organisations wanted to keep the pot boiling," the law officer said.

The petition has sought the court to order a court-monitored investigation by the Special Investigation Team into leaked audio clips.

The NGO, also represented by advocate Cheryl D'Souza, alleged the "Chief Minister of Manipur was instrumental in inciting, organising and thereafter centrally orchestrating the large-scale murder, destruction and other form of violence against the Kuki-dominated areas in Manipur".

"In 2023, violence broke out in Manipur due to the clash between the majority Meitei community and the tribal Kukis. Thereafter, in August 2024, an audio of approximately 48 minutes allegedly recorded in a closed-door meeting with the Chief Minister was published in various newspapers. The recorded conversation *prima facie* shows the complicity and the involvement of the State machinery in violence against Kuki Zo community," the petition said.

JMM passes resolution against CAA, NRC, UCC

A 50-point resolution was passed during party's 46th foundation day celebrations which among other things called for implementation of the Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana Tenancy Acts

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) passed a resolution rejecting the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) during its 46th foundation day celebrations at the Gandhi Maidan in Dumka district of Jharkhand on Sunday night.

Party executive president and Chief Minister Hemant Soren attended the event along with his wife and Gandey MLA Kalpana Soren. A 50-point resolution was passed, which among other things, called for the strict implementation of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act.

The resolutions include demand for the establishment of a mini secretariat in the sub-capital of Dumka to start the Chief Minister's camp office in a systematic and effective manner.

A resolution was passed that all the non-teaching staff of Sido Kanhu Murmu University (SKMU) should be given the benefit of the seventh pay scale. It also demanded to give Central University status to the SKMU and to establish an agricultural university in Dumka.

Celebratory mood: Hemant Soren being felicitated by party workers on JMM's 46th foundation day, in Dumka on Monday. ANI

Addressing the large gathering, Mr. Soren accused the Union government of neglecting Jharkhand. He pointed out that the Centre gets huge revenue from Jharkhand from minerals but Jharkhand gets nothing in return.

"The Budget presented by the Union government has nothing for the people of Jharkhand. The government led by Narendra Modi is worried about the capitalists of the country," Mr. Soren said. He also raised questions on the income tax exemption up to ₹12 lakh. Mr. Soren asked what benefit the poor people of Jharkhand will get from the exemption.

"In the Budget it was said that toy manufacturing companies will be encouraged because such companies belong to Adani and Ambani," he said.

He reiterated that 20% of the tribal people of Jharkhand live in Assam and work in tea gardens but they do not have tribal status. He appealed to tribal people living across the country to come and settle in Jharkhand. "They are not getting their rights. Wherever the tribal people are living in any corner of the country, you come here, we will settle you," Mr. Soren said.

In her speech, Ms. Soren reminded that the movement to get ₹1.36-lakh crore dues from the Centre will continue.

"This land of Jharkhand is a land of agitation and struggle. Guruji Shibu Soren first started [agitation] against the money lending system and then fought a long battle for the demand of a separate Jharkhand. In the similar way, our agitation to get our dues will continue," Ms. Soren said.

She accused the Union government of hatching a conspiracy to send Mr. Soren to jail.

Basant Soren, Dumka MLA, said if the Centre does not agree to pay the dues, the Jharkhand government will not let even a single piece of mineral go out of the State.

93% probability that voice in leaked tapes is of Manipur CM: lab

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Even as the Supreme Court awaits a forensic analysis of the audio tapes purported to implicate Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh for his alleged role in the State's ethnic conflict by a government laboratory, an analysis conducted by Truth Labs Forensic Services, a private non-profit, has said that comparisons with samples of Mr. Singh's public speeches showed that there was a 93% probability that the voice in the leaked tapes was that of the Manipur Chief Minister.

The forensic report of Truth Labs said in its final opinion that auditory, spectrographic statistical, and likelihood analysis showed that the "voice of the speaker in both questioned and standard recordings was identified to be one and the same with high probability".

The report said that repeated critical listening had "indicated the similarity of voices", adding that "intonation patterns of about 20 commonly uttered words found in the samples were found to be similar, and that the vowel distribution pattern analysed for commonly uttered words and other words "were found to be similar with high probability".

Acoustic analysis

Under the acoustic analysis of the audio, the laboratory said, "No abrupt changes in the background noise, context, tone consistency of speech fluency, loudness, could be detected." It also noted in the audio authentication section that "no abrupt changes were found in the time-domain waveform and spectrogram of the audio signals in the recordings".

A Manipur government source told *The Hindu* that there is "no need to comment" on these findings "as it has nothing to do with CM N. Biren Singh". Ever since the tapes were leaked, the Manipur government has maintained that it is "doctored" and is being investigated by the State police.

The report noted that the original audio tapes, purported to be that of Mr. Singh speaking in the Meitei language, was submitted as an audio-video recording file, "created using a pre-existing audio recording in order to add English subtitles".

Maharashtra makes Marathi compulsory in all official dealings

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

To promote the use of the Marathi language, the Maharashtra government on Monday issued an order making it compulsory for all officials of government, semi-government, local self-government, government corporations, and government-aided offices in the State to speak only in Marathi.

Even keyboards in all the offices will have to mandatorily have Marathi Devanagari alphabet, apart from Roman alphabet. Errant officials will face disciplinary action, the government said in its order.

"It will be mandatory to put up boards in front of the offices regarding the use of Marathi language and conversation in Marathi. This will be strictly enforced," the order issued by the Planning Department stated.

"Original proposals, all correspondence, comments, orders, messages in all government offices shall be in Marathi and all presentations and websites at office level shall be in Marathi. According to the trilingual formula of the Central government, it will be mandatory to have notice boards, name boards of officers, application forms in Marathi in all offices of the Central government in the State as well as in all banks etc.," the government order stated.

The Marathi Language Policy was approved by the Maharashtra Cabinet last year.

The policy had recommended the use of Marathi in all public affairs to further the steps taken for the preservation, conservation, promotion, dissemination, and development of Marathi language.

Manipur Congress apprises Governor of Biren's 'threat' against no-trust motion

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Manipur unit of the Congress on Monday alleged that Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh threatened the MLAs against moving a no-trust motion against his government in the upcoming session of the 60-member State Assembly.

A Congress delegation led by former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal and handed over a memorandum.

Later, the Congress leaders told journalists that the party apprised the Governor of the threat.

"There was an event organised by the BJP at its head office (in Imphal) on January 14. During that meeting, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh mentioned that any MLA who moves a no-confidence motion will not be able to stay in the house as he will be chased by the people," Mr. Ibobi Singh, the Manipur Congress Legislature Party leader, said.

Okram Ibobi Singh led the delegation that met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal.

He said Mr. Biren Singh's statement did not behove of a Chief Minister.

"The statement is uncivilised and unbecoming of a leader. Moving a no-trust motion falls within the rights and privileges of the members given by the Constitution," he said.

Mr. Ibobi Singh said that the Congress requested the Governor to advise the State government, particularly the Chief Minister.

"If something goes wrong during the Assembly session, it will be the sole responsibility of the State government," the former Chief Minister said.

He added that the Congress would consult its MLAs to decide whether or not to move a non-confidence motion.

The Assembly session is scheduled to begin on February 10.

Ten Kuki MLAs, who have stayed away from Imphal since the ethnic conflict broke out in May 2023, are unlikely to attend it. Seven of them are from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

SC to hear on Feb. 12 pleas on CEC, EC appointments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on February 12 petitions challenging the legality of a new law dealing with the appointments of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners which gives the Centre a dominant role.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, said though the case was scheduled to be heard on February 4, it was listed nearly at the bottom of the cause list for the day. He said there would be little time for the court to hear it, if at all.

Fixing February 12, Justice Kant, who headed the Bench, said it would endeavour to hear and decide the case on the same day.

2 crore people take *Amrit Snan* on Basant Panchami at Maha Kumbh

Press Trust of India
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The third *Amrit Snan* at the Maha Kumbh proceeded smoothly on Monday with lakhs of people taking a dip on the occasion of Basant Panchami, and Akharas resuming the grand processions curtailed last week when a stampede killed at least 30 people.

By 4 p.m., an estimated two crore devotees had taken the ritual dip at the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati, according to figures shared by the Uttar Pradesh government.

After the stampede that broke out at the Sangam on 'Mauni Amavasya' (January 29), the State government mounted safety measures, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directing officials to adopt a "zero-error" approach.

Holy bath: Devotees take a dip at Sangam during the third *Amrit Snan* at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

Unlike the Mauni Amavasya dip, when crowd pressure built up at the Sangam, many devotees this time took to other ghats instead of jostling for space at the confluence, exhibiting self-awareness amid heightened security and crowd control measures in the Mela area, according to officials.

Mr. Adityanath had monitored the situation from his official residence in Lucknow since 3.30 a.m., they said.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police (DIG), Maha Kumbh, Vaibhav Krishna said that in light of the January 29 stampede, additional force had been deployed at all pressure points for crowd management.

"Everything is running smoothly today," Mr. Krishna said during a pre-dawn patrolling in the Mela area.

The government said that it expected a footfall of around five crore pilgrims through Monday. Overall, since the beginning of the Maha Kumbh on January 13, 34.97 crore visitors have been recorded.

While Monday's is the last of the three *Amrit Snans*, two more special bathing dates fall on February 12 (Maghi Purnima) and February 26 (Mahashivratri), before the culmination of the world's largest spiritual congregation.

Anti-conversion Bill tabled in Rajasthan, proposes 10-year jail

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Those who desire to convert shall have to give a declaration at least 60 days before to District Magistrate

The BJP government in Rajasthan introduced in the Assembly on Monday a Bill to prevent religious conversions carried out by force, fraud, or inducement.

The Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025 has a provision for imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹50,000 for various offences.

The State Cabinet had approved the draft of the Bill in November 2024 with an observation that it would help stop the "increasing instances" of "love jihad". "Love jihad cases have assumed seriousness, causing a great deal of concern for the society at large. This legislation is going to curb this practice," State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel told journalists.

Under the Bill, the offences will be cognisable and non-bailable, and triable by a court. Those who desire to convert shall have to give a declaration in the prescribed form at least 60 days in advance to the District Magistrate.

The Opposition Congress strongly opposed the Bill, saying it formed part of the BJP's propaganda to mislead the people.

Opposition asks govt. to come clean on Maha Kumbh deaths

Kharge says 'thousands' were killed on January 29, sparking an uproar from Treasury benches; Jagdeep Dhankar asks him to authenticate the number; Congress president says he will apologise if count revealed by government proves him wrong

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha on Monday asked the government to come clean on the number of pilgrims who were killed in the stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and those missing after the tragedy.

Participating in a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint session of Parliament, they sought to know when the Census and caste census would be conducted, and attacked the government on the depreciation of the rupee.

When Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, while paying tributes to the stampede victims, said that "thousands" were killed in the accident, the Treasury benches created an uproar with Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankar directing Mr. Kharge to authenticate the numbers or withdraw the statement.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge speaks in the Rajya Sabha on Monday about the recent stampede in Maha Kumbh. ANI

'Estimated count'

Amid protests by the Treasury benches, Mr. Kharge said, "This is my estimate [and] if this is not right, you [the government] should tell what is the truth." He said he was ready to be corrected.

"I did not say 'thousands' to blame anyone. But how many people died, give that information at least. I will apologise if I am wrong. They should give figures... how many died, how many are missing," he said.

The Uttar Pradesh government had said 30 people were killed and 60 injured in the stampede during *Amrit Snan* on January 29.

Urging Mr. Kharge to retract the statement, Mr. Dhankar said: "The Leader of the Opposition has indicated a scenario using figures to the extent of thousands. I appeal to him, in this House, whatever is spoken, carries great weight. You have spoken something which has numbed everyone."

Mr. Kharge accused the government of working only for rich industrialists, adding that the poor were reeling under the pressure of inflation and unemployment. He demanded Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation over the latter's remark on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Winter Session.

Stampede 'unfortunate', says SC but no inquiry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna remarked on Monday that the stampede deaths at Maha Kumbh was "unfortunate" but refused to entertain a petition to examine "lapses, negligence and utter failure of administration". Heading a Bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, the CJI asked the petitioner to move the Allahabad High Court. The petition sought directions from the court to frame safety measures and guidelines for pilgrims to prevent such tragedies.

China could come inside the country because 'Make in India' failed, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Making a point: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi speaks in the House on Monday. PTI

An electorate the size of the voting population of Himachal Pradesh was added to the voter list in Maharashtra between the Lok Sabha election and the Assembly election in 2024, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Monday.

Mr. Gandhi made these remarks as part of his speech during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint session of Parliament.

Stating that he had struggled to keep his focus during the presidential address as it sounded like a "laundry list" of things that the government had done, he dwelt upon issues that would have taken centre stage under a INDIA bloc government.

Harnessing India's youth power to lead the energy and mobility revolution instead of China, ensuring higher participation of Dalits, tribals, and OBCs in the development process and protecting constitutional institutions were some of the key points that featured prominently in Mr. Gandhi's nearly 45-minute speech.

He talked about the caste survey in Telangana revealing that 90% of the population was made up by Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, and minorities.

While mentioning Maharashtra's electoral rolls, he said: "Almost 70 lakh new voters suddenly appeared between the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections... This means the entire population of Himachal Pradesh was added to the voter rolls of Maharashtra."

The Opposition leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" initiative was a well-intentioned programme that failed, while conceding that successive governments, be it the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) or the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), could not tackle unemployment and give a clear-cut answer to the youth.

"I think the Prime Minister tried and conceptually 'Make in India' was a good idea but it is pretty clear that he failed," Mr. Gandhi said.

He added, "China has an industrial system that is far stronger, far bigger than our industrial system, and that is why they have the guts to come inside this country. The reason China is sitting inside this country is because 'Make in India' has failed."

Mr. Gandhi's reference to the External Affairs Minister going to the United States to seek an invitation for Mr. Modi for President Donald Trump's oath-taking invited sharp rebuttal from the ruling party.

Mr. Gandhi said that under an INDIA bloc government, "when we talk to the U.S., we wouldn't send our Foreign Minister to [get] our PM invited to his [U.S. President's] coronation. We will not send our foreign minister three or four times [to say] please invite our Prime Minister... because if we had a robust production system and were working on technologies, the U.S. President would come to India and invite our PM."

Opposition takes on NDA govt. over Manipur, caste census; allies hit back

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Monday took on the National Democratic Alliance government in the Lok Sabha over issues spanning from caste census to Centre-State relations while participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint session of Parliament. However, NDA allies, such as the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), countered that it was the people of the country who had given them the mandate to rule.

Leading the charge from the Opposition, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP Kanimozhi said the President's address had glorified "civilisational nationalism". She slammed the NDA government for not having commented on the findings that push back the timeline of iron usage in Tamil Nadu to as early as 3,345 BCE.

TDP MP Sribharat Mathukumilli said though the Opposition had made many accusations against the government, the people of India had given the ruling alliance the mandate.

DMK MP Kanimozhi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session. ANI

"While the Opposition has made many accusations against the government that we are part of today... the population has decided that in spite of all these allegations, India is in the safe hands of the NDA in alliance with the TDP, the Jana Sena and other partners all over the country," he said.

"Difficult times test our democracy but people have believed in our institutions... In 2019, when we lost power and a new government came to power in Andhra Pradesh, we very soon realised that fear became the tool of the government with demolitions and financial and psychological warfare, and assets being taken away."

D. Kamait of the Janata Dal(U), an NDA ally, defended the government policies.

Ms. Kanimozhi said the BJP government spoke about 3,500 years of Vedic civilisation, but "today we know that the Iron Age in India has been traced back to 5,345 years ago. Our Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has proudly proclaimed to the world, based on scientific evidence validated by international labs like Beta Analytics in Florida, that Thoothukudi district today holds within it the proof of iron smelting and usage".

"This is the oldest finding in India till today. The Union government has till today not even commented on the findings which are very important internationally. When you exclude this truth you just don't exclude us but you are excluding yourselves from the great legacy of Dravidian civilisation," she said.

She accused the NDA government at the Centre of dividing society which would take ages to repair.

"Minorities are being made to feel on edge. The government's approach on issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, triple talaq, and lynching makes them feel threatened," she said flagging the "increasing" attacks on civil society as well.

Trinamool Congress MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar expressed concern over waiving of loans of billionaires while farmers are struggling. "Not a single word was spoken about Manipur. Houses were burnt, women were gang-raped, and children were born in camps. The Prime Minister has no time to visit Manipur but visits election-bound States instead," she said. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, Congress MP from Manipur, said the crisis in the State was a national crisis.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant said that government schemes were not delivering positive results.

Uproar in Lok Sabha over Kumbh stampede

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha conducted business amid pandemonium as Opposition members raised slogans alleging mismanagement at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

Speaker Om Birla conducted Question Hour amid noisy protests by Opposition parties demanding a discussion on the stampede.

The Deputy Leader of the Congress in the House, Gaurav Gogoi, and his senior colleague K.C. Venugopal led the Opposition members in seeking the suspension of Question Hour.

They wanted a list of those who died in the stampede.

Mr. Birla urged the members to allow the Question Hour to function, and warned members against thumping tables as a mark of protest.

"Have the people asked you to raise questions or damage tables," the Speaker asked the protesting MPs.

Rahul's statements in House unsubstantiated: Centre, BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government and the BJP on Monday countered Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on multiple issues raised by him in the Lok Sabha, describing his statements as "unsubstantiated".

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, in a post on X, called Mr. Gandhi's statement a "deliberate falsehood", brushing aside the statement that he had requested an invitation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the swearing-in of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Mr. Jaishankar said his visit to Washington in December was to meet his counterparts in the outgoing Biden administration and he had also met incoming National Security Adviser Mike Walz.

"At no stage was an invitation in respect of the Prime Minister discussed. It is common knowledge that our Prime Minister does not attend such events," he added. At the Trump inaugural, Mr. Jaishankar was the Prime Minister's 'Special Envoy', the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said.

"Rahul Gandhi's lies may be intended politically. But they damage the nation abroad," Mr. Jaishankar added.

In the Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju objected to Mr. Gandhi's remarks on the same issue.

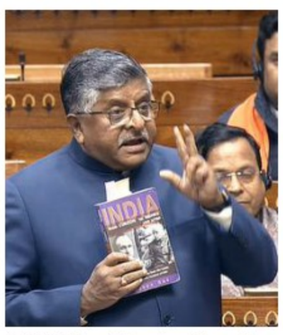
He said the "Leader of the Opposition cannot make such serious, unsubstantiated, statement... as this is related to the relations between two countries, he should be responsible."

Ravi Shankar Prasad smells a 'conspiracy' behind stampede

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leading a sharp attack on the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Monday said the ruling party smelt a conspiracy behind the Maha Kumbh stampede and those responsible for it would have to hang their heads in shame once the probe got over.

Taking part in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint session of Parliament, the MP from Bihar's Patna Sahib constituency raised the issue of Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi referring to President Droupadi Murmu as "poor lady", and accused the Congress of historically "disrespecting" the office of the President. "What does it mean that the President is a poor lady? I want to raise this issue seriously...," Mr. Prasad said.


BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session. PTI

Asserting that 35 crore people had so far taken a holy dip during the Maha Kumbh, Mr. Prasad alleged that the Opposition got upset the moment it heard of "Kumbh" or "*Sanatan*".

"There was a tragedy at the Maha Kumbh... An investigation is under way. We do smell a conspiracy there... When the entire investigation is complete, those behind the incident will have to hang their heads in shame," the MP said.

"I must put it on record here that '*sanatan ka apman nahi sahega Hindustan*' [India will not tolerate an insult to *Sanatana Dharma*)," he added.

Privilege notice against Sonia

NEW DELHI

A group of BJP MPs from the tribal community filed a breach of privilege notice on Monday against Congress Parliamentary Party leader Sonia Gandhi for alleged use of "derogatory and slanderous" words against President Droupadi Murmu. PTI

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Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_133952_1 Break-down / Preventive maintenance & Overhauling of Bowl Mills (i.e. XRP-803 and HP-803), Raw Coal Feeders, mill reject system & its auxiliaries, preventive/ breakdown maintenance of coal pipes, removal/ clearing of mills reject, raw coal/coal dust from mills & R.C. Feeders areas, transportation of mill reject, coal dust etc. from mill area to CHP yard for four units i.e. 4x210MW (Unit no. 3 to 6) of BHEL make at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to ***https://eproc.punjab.gov.in*** from dated 03.02.2025/01:30 PM onwards.
Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at ***https://eproc.punjab.gov.in***
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Second and Final call for CBT - CETs Tender
The last date for submission of bids for **second and final call of tender (Id.No.781577) for conduct of AP Common Entrance Tests by APSCHE is extended up to 7-2-2025.** For other details please visit **www.apsche.org**
Dt: 03-02-2025 **Sd/- SECRETARY(FAC)**

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NOTIFICATION Roc.No.TTD-32021(31)/2/2020-HOT-TTD Dt:31-01-2025
TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) desire to allow the best quality packaged drinking water to the visiting pilgrims to Tirumala. Interested parties can submit their proposals for supply of water in non-plastic containers / bottles (Bio-degradable / Bio-compostable) at reasonable price to mail i.d. **ttdhealthoffice@gmail.com** or physically to Health Officer, TTD, Tirumala. For any clarifications, please contact **Phone No.9866132451.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.305), Date:03-02-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **04/02/2025 onwards.**
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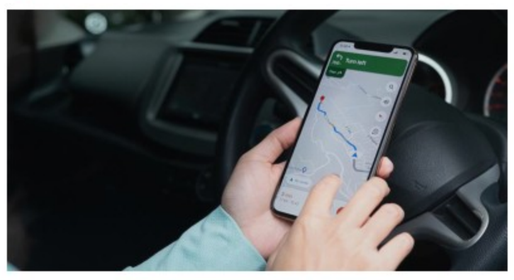
INBRIEF



Indian alternative for Google Maps needed, says BJP MP

The spate of increasing accidents due to incorrect navigation data from Google Maps necessitates Indian companies to come up with alternative solutions tailored for the country, BJP Rajya Sabha member Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade said in Parliament on Monday. "Incidents due to Google Maps errors in India are becoming a more and more serious issue," Dr. Gopchade said during Zero Hour. "In Kerala recently, two 29-year-old doctors regretfully died when they were navigating using Google Maps and their car fell into the Periyar river. There was a similar incident in Bareilly, when a car fell into a river while following Google Maps directions."

Retired soldier killed, family injured in militant attack

A retired Army man was killed and his wife and daughter were injured in a suspected militant attack in south Kashmir's Kulgam on Monday. Preliminary reports suggested that the retired soldier, Manzoor Ahmad, and his family members were fired upon by gunmen in the Behibagh area of Kulgam. Officials said Ahmad died of injuries in the hospital. The family members, who sustained injuries in the limbs, are said to be stable. The Jammu & Kashmir Police have not issued any statement on the incident. No militant outfit has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Do not reduce forest land for linear projects, says SC

If any area is used for projects, the same amount of land must be given for compensatory afforestation; court was hearing pleas challenging amendments made in 2023 to the Forest Act

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court made it clear to the Union government and States on Monday that no steps will be taken by them to reduce forest land unless compensatory land is provided by them for afforestation.

"We will not allow you to reduce the forest area... You cannot use any forest land for linear projects. If you are using any area for these projects, the same amount of land must be given for compensatory afforestation," a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K. Vinod Chandran addressed Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre.

The court was hearing a clutch of petitions challenging amendments made in 2023 to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The 1980 statute was enacted to check further deforestation leading to ecological imbalance.

In February last year, the top court significantly declared in an order that the expression 'forest' would continue to have a "broad and all-encompassing" meaning and include 1.97 lakh square km of undeclared forest lands.

Green cover: The top court had said that the term 'forest' would include 1.97 lakh square km of undeclared forest land.

The petitions had argued that Section 1A introduced through the amended Act had "circumscribed or substantially diluted" the definition of forest to two categories – declared forests and lands recorded as forests in 'government records' after 1980. The Centre, however, had denied using the amendments to reduce the forest cover. It pointed to the 'explanation' to Section 1A, which expanded the term 'government records' contained in the provision to include lands recognised as forest by any State or Union Territory authority, local body, council or recognised communities.

Meaning of 'forest'

However, the court had directed the government, for clarity's sake, to revert to the "dictionary meaning" of 'forest' as upheld in a 1996 Supreme Court decision in the *TN Godavarman Thirumulpad* case. The term 'forest' had been given a broad meaning by the court then to preserve these green expanses, irrespective of their nature, classification or ownership.

"The adoption of this dictionary meaning to forests was made to align with the intent of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. It is clarified that the expression 'forest' will cover but not be confined to lands recorded as forests in the government records," the court had noted last year.

The Bench had clarified that the "all-encompassing" dictionary meaning upheld by the Supreme Court in the *Godavarman Thirumulpad* case over 25 years ago would continue to hold field till the States and Union territories prepare a "consolidated record" of all the lands recorded as "forest" in government records, including forest-like areas, unclassed and community forest lands.

The court said the exercise to prepare such a consolidated record was part of Rule 16 of a notification issued by the Environment Ministry on November 29, 2023, and would take a year.

Allegations of caste profiling of students 'misleading': IIT-Delhi

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, has denied allegations of caste profiling of students during campus placements, saying that the information on the socio-economic category and JEE-Advanced rank appeared only on the students' interface of the recruitment portal, and that no recruiter could view these without the consent of the students concerned.

In its response filed before the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), which in January initiated an inquiry into a complaint of discriminatory placement practices followed by it and the IIT-Bombay, the IIT-Delhi said that it was unable to share data on category-wise placements as this has to be separately compiled.

The NCSC on January 15 issued notices to both institutes and the Union Education Ministry for a detailed action-taken report.

In response to the notice, the IIT-Delhi's Assistant Registrar (Legal), Deepak Raja, told the commission, in a letter dated January 29, that the complaint should be closed as the allegations are "completely baseless and incorrect". The IIT-Bombay and the Ministry are yet to submit their responses. The IIT-Delhi insisted that the complaint's contention of caste profiling by the placements office is "completely misleading", adding that "category data is not shared by the institute under ordinary circumstances with any recruiter".

IIT-Delhi said that category data is not ordinarily shared by the institute with any recruiter.

However, the institute added, "Currently, these fields have been removed from the login page of the student as well," without elaborating why or when the decision to remove these details was taken. It did, however, add that category data may be shared only if the student "requires" it to be shared with recruiters such as government organisations or Public Sector Undertakings.

CPI(M) to continue support for INDIA bloc but will also build on its own identity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The party has expressed caution on extremist organisations expanding their influence in Kerala

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), in its draft resolution released on Monday ahead of its 24th Congress scheduled for April 2 to 6 in Madurai, said that more attention should be paid to independent political campaigning and that there should be no blurring of "independent identity" in the name of electoral understanding or alliances.

The CPI(M) is part of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance.

Anti-BJP force

While its political line remains centred on the principle of maximising the pooling of anti-BJP votes, the party, in its draft political resolution, said that a review of the 18th Lok Sabha results underlined the urgent necessity to expand the independent strength of the party.

"The Party should pay more attention to the independent political campaign and mass mobilisations around the political platform of the Party. There should be no blurring of our independent identity or diminishing our independent activities in the name of electoral understanding or alliances," the draft resolution stated.

The draft resolution maintained that the CPI(M) would cooperate with the INDIA bloc parties in Parliament and on agreed issues outside Parliament. Special attention, the resolution said, should be paid to the ideological work and campaign to counter the ideology and activities of the RSS-Hindutva forces.

The party, while hitting out at the RSS, has also expressed caution on "Muslim fundamentalist and extremist organisations" expanding their influence in Kerala.

"They seek to utilise the alienation and fears among the minority community, who are subject to constant attacks by the Hindutva forces. In Kerala, they target the CPI(M) to curb the latter's influence among the minorities," the resolution said.

The draft resolution, though, adds a caveat that the "minority communalism" cannot be equated with "Hindutva communal forces" who are in power.

In Trump 2.0, it is better for India to be seen as independent than as U.S. ally: geopolitics expert

Suhasini Haidar
MUMBAI

Given the kind of shifts in U.S. policy expected in Trump 2.0, it is better for India to remain independent than to be a U.S. ally, says Kishore Mahbubani, a Singaporean expert in geopolitics.

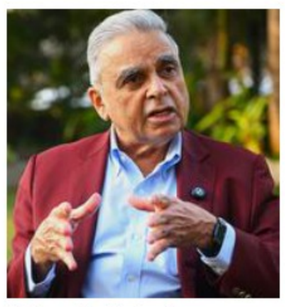
In an interview on the sidelines of an event by the Asia Society for his latest book *Living the Asian Century*, he called India "wise" to "keep its options open at this time", as a member of both the Quad grouping with the U.S., Australia, and Japan and the BRICS emerging economies grouping that includes Russia and China.

In particular, Mr. Mahbubani, who was Singapore's Ambassador to the United Nations and then Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, said that U.S. President Donald Trump's second term in office would be considerably different from the first, and that he would be "completely unrestrained" about his demands from other countries on tariffs, geopolitics, and other issues.

"Since the end of World War 2, [the U.S.] has behaved more or less as a responsible stakeholder to the global order. And here comes along, Mr. Trump, and he completely tramples on all the principles of international order that the U.S. was committed to," Mr. Mahbubani said.

"[At this time], it is better for India to be seen as an independent pole in a multipolar world with far more options than, let's say, Japan, which is a completely dependent pole on the U.S.," he said, referring to the Quad grouping.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took part in the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting in Washington last month, convened by the new U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, and India will host the Quad Summit later this year, when Mr. Trump is expected to visit.



Kishore Mahbubani

China ties

Mr. Mahbubani, who has been criticised at times for advocating more engagement with China, said that while he foresaw a more "assertive" China and the U.S. jockeying for global power, he did not think a war over Taiwan was imminent.

"The paradox about Donald Trump is that he also says that he is not a warmonger, and it's true that in his first term, Trump was the first American president in a long time who hadn't started a war," Mr. Mahbubani said.

He added that he felt Mr. Trump was better placed to "make a deal with China, because he is not seen to be in any way soft on China" like his predecessors in office.

Mr. Trump had invited Chinese President Xi Jinping to his inauguration, although the latter declined, and his administration has taken a softer line on Taiwan, with Mr. Rubio telling Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, according to the Chinese readout not denied by the U.S. so far, that the U.S. "does not support Taiwan independence".

Trade agreements

Asked about trading arrangements in Asia like the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that India walked out of in 2019 and the virtually defunct South Asia Free Trade Agreement, the Singaporean diplomat and academic said that economic studies showed that India would benefit from a bigger market.

"I think India should definitely revisit the RCEP question, especially as India wants to become a manufacturing economy," Mr. Mahbubani said.

"The way for China and India to grow their economies rapidly is to remain peaceful with all their neighbours. I'm not saying that India and Pakistan should sign a free trade agreement or give concessions to each other... they should just have normal trade," he added, citing booming trade between China and Vietnam, despite China's historic occupation of Vietnamese territory as an example.

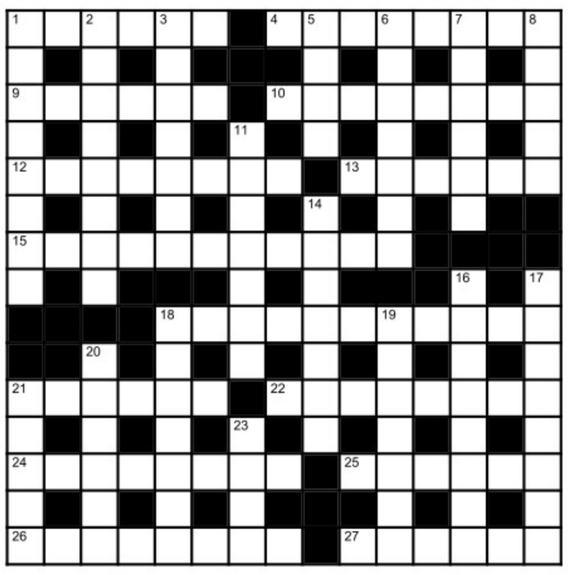
(The full interview is at bit.ly/mahbubani)

TH CROSSWORD + 14399

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Sounds like interest-free, blessed? (6)
4 Falls miserably wearing fashionable clothing (4-4)
9 Some invigilator chides for bloomer (6)
10 Awfully mistaken king leaves for female show (8)
12 Look for our chat show (8)
13 Odd time to get off horse for grapevine (6)
15 Say this when you are surprised or when you couldn't solve the crossword (5,4,2)
18 They carry babies with them - Bothersome toddlers mainly perhaps (7-2-2)
21 Consumer's right recognized by court (6)
22 Fresh Indian drink is taken through the mouth (8)
24 Wife spent time with company's money for squawk box (8)
25 It gives pleasure when bird cuddles chick heartily (6)
26 Compound interest essentially a point to work out (8)
27 Till inside compounds in conflict (2,4)

Down

1 Climax of blue film at the beginning (8)
2 Overconfident Spooner's hit therapy (8)
3 Special beedis with finishing touch of herbal. They are fit for consumption (7)
5 Unfortunately, model leaves Titan (4)
6 An unsuccessful person just cuts short, come-on! (7)
7 Will one heartless criminal keep out of sight? (3,3)
8 Safe bet finally won by counterpart (5)
11 Mind-reading skill of editorial essence, it is useful in making paper (7)
14 It has problems arising from rhubarb, eglantine (7)
16 It is borrowed from another language after resolving an old row (4-4)
17 Says no to drinks initially coming with fake license (8)
18 Catch phrase by soft seductive woman (7)
19 Table, most comfortable, not new (7)
20 Pine tree cut perhaps for one who consumes selectively (6)
21 Language spoken by a neighbouring country (5)
23 Find a new word for money (4)

SUDOKU

					4	7	2	
								3
		9	6			4	8	
5	7			4				6
		2	7		9	8		
8				5			7	1
	6	8			5	9		
3								
	4	1	8					

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

A	D	M	I	T		B	O	M
U		A		H		A		U
G	E	N	E	R	I	C		S
M		I		U		K		H
E	L	F	I	S	H		T	R
N		E		T		W		O
T	O	S	S		T	A	R	O
		T		O		I		M
C	R	O	Q	U	E	T	T	E
A				T		A		D
R	E	C	K	L	I	N	G	
I		L		E		D		T
B	A	O	B	A	B	S		W
O		C		R		E		I
U	N	K	I	N	D	E	S	T

B	A	S	T	I	C			
		B		O		R		
C		S	H	I	P	W	A	Y
		H		T		E		I
		T	R	I	M	A	R	A
		O		U				G
		A	R	O	T	C	A	R
		H		E				
		E	M	I	T			
		F		A		O		
		J	U	N	I	O	R	
		T		T		N		M
		W	O	U	L	D	B	E
		R		E		N		
E	G	R	E	T				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	1	8	7	2	4	3	6
8	3	6	1	5	4	7	2	9
4	2	7	6	9	3	5	8	1
5	1	9	2	4	8	3	6	7
7	4	3	9	6	5	8	1	2
6	8	2	7	3	1	9	5	4
1	7	8	3	2	9	6	4	5
3	9	4	5	1	6	2	7	8
2	6	5	4	8	7	1	9	3

FAITH

Ratha Saptami significance

Ratha Saptami or Surya Jayanthi is the day when the Sun, the source of energy for all life forms, changes direction, moving from southeast to northeast. He is visualised as doing so on his seven-horse chariot, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan in a discourse. Those who seek him today for physical nourishment and a life free from illness will find their prayers answered. Yoga sastra celebrates surya namaskar as being highly beneficial for one's mental, physical and emotional well being.

Veda Vyasa highlights the efficacy of praying to the Sun god for ridding oneself of one's sins. When Bhishma, lying on his bed of arrows, awaits the start of Uttarayan, to breathe his last, he is unable to shed his mortal coil and, puzzled, he seeks Veda Vyasa's advise. Vyasa points out that merely adhering to good conduct, personally, is not enough. One should also condemn sinful deeds that one comes across. "For example, when Draupadi was disrobed, you were present. You saw it with your own eyes, your mind knew it was a sin, you heard her cries for help with your ears, but you did nothing to stop it. Only one source of energy can help you: pray to Surya [Sun god], he might offer a solution."

When Bhishma prayed to Surya, the latter suggested that he place seven *erukkai* leaves (Calotropis gigantea) – one on the head, one over each eye, one on each shoulder and one on each foot and pray to overturn the 'sins' of omission. The seven leaves symbolise the seven sins such as sinning with the body, mind, words (tongue), sins committed in current birth and those committed in previous lives; sins committed both knowingly and unknowingly.

INBRIEF

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman likely to visit India on Feb. 5

ChatGPT creator OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman is likely to visit India on February 5, sources said on Monday, adding that the high-profile founder is expected to meet top government officials and engage in an industry fireside chat during his trip. Mr. Altman's visit, his second one in two years, comes at an interesting juncture when OpenAI's (and indeed the western world's) dominance in artificial intelligence has abruptly been challenged by China's upstart Deepseek. PTI

Govt. receives 70 bids for 20 coal blocks in latest round

A total of 70 bids have been received for 20 coal mines out of 27 blocks put on auction in the latest round, Ministry of Coal said on Monday. The latest round or the 11th round of commercial coal auctions included seven mines from the previous round, the ministry said in a statement. The Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, has opened bids for the 11th round of commercial coal mines auction. A total of 46 companies have submitted their bids in the auction process. PTI

About 22,000 EPFO members got higher pension: Minister

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) issued 21,885 pension payment orders and asked 1.65 lakh eligible members to deposit additional amount for higher pension, Parliament was informed on Monday. A total of 17,48,768 applications were submitted for higher pension on making higher contribution under Employees' Pension Scheme, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje said in a written reply to Lok Sabha. PTI

Factory activity improved to six-month high in January

HSBC India Manufacturing PMI rises to 57.7, signals job creation by private producers hit a 20-year high; export orders surged at the fastest pace in almost 14 years while input cost pressures eased

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Extra hands: Robust sales gains prompted firms to recruit more workers at a record pace in the first month of Q4 2024-25. FILE PHOTO

India's private sector manufacturing activity rebounded to a six-month high in January after hitting a one-year low in December, thanks to exports recording their best month in almost 14 years even as factory order books expanded at the fastest pace since July 2024, as per a private index based on a survey of 400-odd firms.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 56.4 to 57.7 in January, breaking a two-month streak of deceleration, with firms reporting buoyant demand even as they raised prices solidly but at the slowest pace in four months. While input cost pressures eased to an 11-month low, robust sales gains and upbeat forecasts prompted companies to recruit additional workers at a record pace in the first month of the fourth quarter of 2024-25. S&P Global, which conducts the PMI surveys, said job expansion levels were the greatest seen in nearly 20 years of data collection.

Companies ramped up production volumes at the fastest rate since last October and turned more optimistic about prospects for the coming year with nearly 32% firms expecting growth and just 1% projecting contraction in output.

Fitch Ratings says Budget is 'neutral' for growth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's 2025-26 Budget will be "broadly neutral" for growth prospects, and while its projections "appear realistic", revenues could see some modest slippages amid the moderation in growth, warranting further restraint on expenditure, Fitch Ratings said on Monday.

On the Centre's new fiscal consolidation goal of 50% debt to GDP by 2031, the rating firm said that increased confidence that the government can adhere to this medium-term fiscal framework and keep debt firmly on a downward path, would be positive for the sovereign rating over time. "Still, the pace of debt reduction is gradual, which leaves open downside risks from a large economic shock," cautioned Jeremy Zook, director and primary sovereign analyst for India at Fitch Ratings.

"The budget will be broadly neutral for growth in our view, as the consumption boost from tax cuts, along with sustained levels of capex spending should balance the contractionary thrust from deficit reduction," he said.

While the fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of GDP for next year "highlights the government's ongoing commitment to deficit reduction even amid a recent slowing of economic activity", Mr. Zook said policy tradeoffs between growth and fiscal deficit reduction objectives are becoming more challenging.

'₹40,000 crore of tax stimulus may reach banks'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

India's top Finance ministry official on Monday urged India Inc. to inculcate the 'animal spirit' and invest, even as a chunk of the ₹1 lakh crore income tax bonanza unveiled in the Budget is expected to be saved by taxpayers in banks which could boost credit flows to industry.

"Adam Smith had something in mind, when he said animal spirit. He didn't say human spirit because the human mind goes off and on, it's sometimes unpredictable and moody. Therefore, to revive the entrepreneurial spirit, he said revive the animal spirits," Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey told CII members. "...An animal is free from all these bonds of [fretting about] 'What will happen? What will this thing mean?', and do too much calculation. I'll encourage the industry to inculcate that animal spirit in you and try and invest. Some of you have been waiting... I think the time to plunge is now," Mr. Pandey said.

Financial Services Secretary M. Nagaraju also averred that ₹40,000 crore to ₹45,000 crore of the stimulus through income tax breaks announced to spur demand and growth, is likely to be deposited in banks. This could help enhance lenders' credit flows to entrepreneurs, and spur job creation, he stressed.

'GST rates need to be rationalised'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Monday said enough experience has been gained in the to implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and now the rates need to be rationalised in consultation with States.

"There is recognition that rationalisation is needed. But how exactly... and what are the numbers we will be able to arrive at, that further exercise will be done by the Group of Ministers (GoM) of the GST Council," Mr. Pandey said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,187	-0.41
US Dollar	87.11	-0.56
Gold	85,300	0.47
Brent oil	75.69	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2261.85	-8.15
Adani Ports	1084.85	0.75
Apollo Hosp	6798.65	-42.45
Asian Paints	2292.25	-58.90
Axis Bank	989.40	-8.75
Bajaj Auto	8926.55	-229.05
Bajaj Finserv	1794.85	40.85
Bajaj Finance	8425.80	425.70
Bharat Elec	274.15	-7.65
Bharti Airtel	1652.35	29.10
BPCL	249.55	-6.10
Britannia Ind	5105.55	-95.80
Cipla	1420.55	-18.95
Coal India	374.00	-11.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1203.85	-1.10
Eicher Motors	5485.25	95.10
Grasim Ind	2473.65	32.90
HCL Tech	1692.00	-2.00
HDFC Bank	1678.00	-12.95
HDFC Life	621.40	-4.10
Hero MotoCorp	4286.65	-115.50
Hindalco	574.05	-12.40
Hind Unilever	2441.95	-64.10
ICICI Bank	1253.00	-2.55
IndusInd Bank	1012.70	3.30
Infosys	1863.30	11.95
ITC	454.35	-8.20
ITC Hotels Ltd	171.40	0.65
JSW Steel	933.95	-0.30
Kotak Bank	1884.50	-18.60
L&T	3289.20	-158.30
M&M	3173.30	96.55
Maruti Suzuki	13139.95	223.45
NestleIndia	2317.10	-10.10
NTPC	311.25	-6.45
ONGC	249.00	-8.55
PowerGrid Corp	283.80	-6.05
Reliance Ind	1245.90	-18.70
SBI Life	1459.95	5.60
State Bank	760.95	-5.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	546.15	14.35
Sun Pharma	1740.60	-1.60
TataConsumerProduct	1036.30	-33.55
Tata Motors	687.45	-19.10
Tata Steel	131.82	-1.15
TCS	4068.65	-4.50
Tech Mahindra	1654.70	8.30
Titan	3580.30	28.30
Trent Ltd.	6135.10	-54.40
UltraTech Cement	11174.65	-84.50
Wipro	313.60	8.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.88	84.20
Euro	90.81	91.17
British Pound	108.85	109.27
Japanese Yen (100)	55.58	55.79
Chinese Yuan	11.78	11.82
Swiss Franc	96.88	97.25
Singapore Dollar	63.75	64.00
Canadian Dollar	60.64	60.88
Malaysian Ringitt	19.37	19.47
Australian Dollar	56.07	56.29

Source:Indian Bank

TVS Holdings completes acquisition of Home Credit India for ₹554 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

TVS Holdings Ltd. said it has completed the acquisition of 80.74% equity stake in Home Credit India Finance Private Ltd. for ₹554 crore. The balance 19.26% of the equity stake has been purchased by Premji Invest and associates of TVS Holdings.

This acquisition aligns seamlessly with TVS Holdings' mission to strengthen its presence in the financial services sector, the company said in a statement.

The acquisition of Home Credit was funded through a combination of proceeds from the recent sale of the company's real estate assets and borrowings from capital markets.

"The acquisition of Home Credit India marks an important milestone for TVS Holdings," said Sudarshan Venu, MD of TVS Holdings. "This transaction underscores our commitment to delivering innovative and inclusive financial solutions."

Lending book boost

"Together with TVS Credit, the group will now have a lending book of ₹33,000 crore, taking us closer to our book-size goal of ₹50,000 crore in the next three years," he said.

Home Credit India is into consumer finance with assets under management (AUM) of ₹5,535 crore as of March 31, 2024.

The firm has an employee base of 3,800 and a network of over 50,000 points-of-sale in more than 625 Indian cities.

Skoda Auto moves Bombay HC over ₹11,000-cr. tax notice

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Skoda Auto Volkswagen India has filed a case in the Bombay High Court against tax authorities over the ₹11,000-crore (about $1.4 billion) show cause notice for alleged customs duty fraud related to the import of cars as completely knocked down units.

When contacted, Skoda Auto Volkswagen India said it was availing all legal remedies in response to the show cause notice as permitted under the law.

"Skoda Auto Volkswagen India is committed to ensuring full compliance with all applicable global and local laws and regulations," the firm added.

The VW group has been accused of deliberately misleading customs authorities through its mode of import of parts as individual units rather than as a component of a CKD unit, which attracts higher import duty. In July 2018, the Volkswagen Group announced investments of about €1 billion as part of the India 2.0 project.

Sundaram Finance Q3 net rises 16% to ₹349 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sundaram Finance Limited (SFL) standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December, grew 16% year-on-year to ₹349 crore.

Standalone revenue from operations grew 24% to ₹1,478 crore. Consolidated net profit slid 10% to ₹455 crore. However, consolidated revenue rose 21% to ₹1,857 crore.

The board declared 140% interim dividend (₹14 a share). Consolidated results of SFL include the results of its standalone subsidiaries Sundaram Home Finance, Sundaram Asset Management, and the joint venture Royal Sundaram General Insurance.

Nissan starts exporting left-hand drive Magnite

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Nissan Motor India said it has commenced exports of over 10,000 units of the Left-Hand Drive (LHD) New Nissan Magnite from its Chennai manufacturing unit from the Kamarajar Port (KPL - Ennore).

The first shipment of close to 2,900 units of the New Nissan Magnite LHD were exported to select markets in the LATAM region in January 2025, the company said.

Keerthi Prakash, managing director of Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt. Ltd, said the successful production and export of the New Nissan Magnite to Left-Hand Drive markets is a "testament to the exceptional capabilities of our team and the world-class manufacturing standards at our Chennai plant".

Over 7,100 units of the vehicle are scheduled to be exported in February 2025 to markets in the Middle East, North Africa, select markets in LATAM & Asia Pacific region making a total of 10,000 units by end of February. Recently, Nissan Motor India had begun exporting its recently launched New Nissan Magnite (RHD), to South Africa. Over 2,700 units of the vehicle were shipped from the Chennai port to South Africa market within a month after its global launch in India last year.

Saurabh Vatsa, MD, Nissan Motor India, said, "The commencement of exports of the Left-Hand Drive New Nissan Magnite is a proud moment for us, as it aligns with our 'One Car, One World' philosophy," he said. These shipments, he said, highlights India's increasing importance as a key manufacturing and export hub for Nissan.

Department of Public Libraries
District Central Library Office Koppal
E-Mail: granthalaya058@gmail.com
Contact:7795474575

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The following 06 Tenders have been reinvited from the authorized firms to procure and supply of syllabus and non-syllabus books to the 15 GFG Colleges and 02 Government Engineering and 04 Polytechnic Collages in Koppal district. The forms, terms, conditions and other details may be obtained from the E-tender portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home The Last date for submitting duly filledе-tender forms is 18-02-2025. till 05:30 PM. The above office may be contactedfor further details.

DegreeCollege Tenders& No.	Estd- Amount
DPL/2024-25/IND0038	395000
DPL/2024-25/IND0037	7710006
DPL/2024-25/IND0036	1757506
Tenders for Poly&Eng Collages & No.	**Estd- Amount**
DPL/2024-25/IND0035	3587728/-
DPL/2024-25/IND0034	1261368/-
DPL/2024-25/IND0033	401884/-

Sd/-Chief Librarian
DIPR/Koppal/723/KSMCA/2024-25

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL- BHEL)
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

RPCL is invited following tender from eligible contractors through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

1) KPCL/2024-25/AUCTION84 dtd: 27.01.2025. Disposal of Non-hazardous type of scrap materials on "as is where is basis" at YTPS, Chikkasugur, Raichur Dist. Last date to confirm participation on 13.02.2025. **2) KPCL/2024-25/IND1452, 23-01-2025.** Procurement of WT system support Hydraulic valves. Last date & time for bid submission: 11-02-2025 at 16:00 Hrs. **3) KKPCL/2024-25/IND 1343/CALL-2, 21-01-2025.** Procurement of solid shafts for YTPS. Last date & time for bid submission: 10-02-2025 at 16:00 Hrs. **4) KPCL/2024-25/IND1253/CALL-4, 21-01-2025.** Procurement of Alpha sp 68 & Alpha sp 220 for YTPS. Last date & time for bid submission : 10-02-2025 at 16:00 Hrs. **5) KPCL/2024-25/ IND1363/CALL-2, 20-01-2025.** Procurement of CONSUMABLE SPARES FOR BURNERS. Last date & time for bid submission : 06-02-2025 at 16:00 Hrs. **6) KPCL/2024-25/IND1365/CALL-2, 20-01-2025.** Procurement of Thrust bearings for Auma actuator. Last date & time for bid submission: 05-02-2025 at 16:00 Hrs. **7) KPCL/2024-25/ IND1447, 18-01-2025.** Procurement of sulphuric acid for YTPS. Last date & time for bid submission: 18-02-2025 at 16:00 Hrs. Further details can be had from the Executive Engineer (MSP), RPCL, YTPS, Yermarus-584 134, Raichur, Mobile: +9480682892.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, SRI.K.N. KEMPANNA S/o Late NARAYANAPPA., Aged about 66 years, S/o. Sri. Jayarama Reddy B.A., Residing at No.219, Kateramma Temple Road, Thanisandra, Dr. Shivaramkaranth nagara Post, K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560077 **Aadhaar No. 943947297671** and **PAN: AHRPK8226G** is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It has been brought to the notice of the general public that our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above owner. All persons having any claims against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 07 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1 : All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural **land bearing Survey No. 62/2 measuring 0.18 guntas (out of 1 Acre 2 Guntas)**, situated at Beedikere Agrahara Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on:

East : Land bearing Survey No. 62/2 belongs to Mr.Venugopal;
West : Land bearing Survey No. 62/4 belongs to Mr.Kempanna;
North : Road
South : Land belongs to Sri. Anjinappa.

Item No.2 : All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural **land bearing Survey No. 62/4 measuring 38 Guntas**, situated at Beedikere Agrahara Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on:

East : Land bearing Survey No. 62/2;
West : Land bearing Survey No. 62/1;
North : Road; and
South : Land belonging to Shri. Anjinappa.

Dated this 3rd day of Feb 2025 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102, Phone: 080-65555914, Mobile: 9945688974; 6362102374.

ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com, Website: www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No: 08532-226768Fax No: 08532-226316

ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಉ(ವಿ)/ನ.ನಿ/13,14,15,289,290,291/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–01–2025.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯ ಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	2024–25 ನಗರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಲಿ	Operation and Maintenance of Street Light in Ward No.01,02,03,04,07,08,09,10,11,12 and 13 in Raichur City Limits.**Estimate Cost Rs:-** 68,00,000/-	DMA/2024-25/SE4289
2		Operation and Maintenance of Street Light in Ward No.05,06,23,24,25,27,30,31,32,33,34 and 35 in Raichur City Limits **Estimate Cost Rs.** 71,00,000/-	DMA/2024-25/SE4290
3		Operation and Maintenance of Street Light in Ward No.14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,26,28 and 29 in Raichur City Limits **Estimate Cost Rs:-** 65,00,000/-	DMA/2024-25/SE4291
4		Hiring of Hydraulic Excavator and Tractor for Site Clearance at CMC Jackwell In Raichur Cmc Limits Estimate Cost Rs. 5,00,000/-	DMA/2024-25/SE4444
5		Repair of Equipments in Sewage Treatment Plant & Wetwell at Eklaspur Zone In Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs:-** 46,90,000/-	DMA/2024-25/SE4327
6		Repair of Equipments In Sewage Treatment Plant & Wetwell at Hosur Zone in Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs:-** 31,80,000/-	DMA/2024-25/SE4482

DIP/RCR/714/KSMCA/715/2024-25

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

PORT SUDAN

At least 40 killed, 70 injured in artillery shelling in south Sudan

REUTERS

At least 40 people were killed on Monday and 70 wounded by artillery shelling in Sudan's south. The shelling was carried out by a faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). The group has been clashing with both the Army and the rival paramilitary RSF since the start of their war in April 2023. AFP

PANAMA CITY

U.S. top diplomat Rubio lays down ultimatum to Panama over canal

REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday threatened action against Panama without immediate changes to reduce Chinese influence on the canal, but the country's leader insisted he was not afraid of a U.S. invasion and offered talks. Mr. Rubio met President Jose Raul Mulino during a visit to the Central American country. AFP

TOKYO

OpenAI announces new 'deep research' tool for ChatGPT

REUTERS

U.S. tech giant OpenAI on Monday unveiled a ChatGPT tool called "deep research" that can produce detailed reports. The company made the announcement in Tokyo, where OpenAI chief Sam Altman also trumpeted a new joint venture with tech investor SoftBank Group to offer advanced AI services to businesses. AFP

DAMASCUS

At least 19 killed, mostly women, in a car bomb explosion in Syria

REUTERS

A car bomb exploded on the outskirts of a northern Syrian city on Monday, killing at least 19 persons, all but one of them women, and leaving more than a dozen wounded, hospital workers said. The car detonated next to a vehicle carrying mostly female agricultural workers on the outskirts of the city of Manbij. AP

Trump to cut South Africa funding over land law

Associated Press
CAPE TOWN

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he will cut all funding to South Africa and has launched an investigation into the country's polices, claiming a "massive" human rights violation is happening over a new land expropriation law.

The South African government said the Trump administration needed to have a better understanding of the new law, which is meant to help redress the impact of decades of white minority rule in South Africa under the apartheid regime. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said "the South African government has not confiscated any land."

Trump pauses Mexico tariffs, but Canada and China to pay

Mexico to reinforce the northern border with 10,000 members of the National Guard immediately, to stop drug trafficking from Mexico to the U.S., says President Claudia Sheinbaum

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Monday after a conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump that the planned tariffs are on hold for a month, a statement confirmed by the White House.

"Mexico will reinforce the northern border with 10,000 members of the National Guard immediately, to stop drug trafficking from Mexico to the United States, in particular fentanyl," Ms. Sheinbaum posted on X. "The United States commits to work to stop the trafficking of high powered weapons to Mexico."

Minor relief: Mexico and the U.S. will continue talks on security and trade while tariffs are put on pause for a month. REUTERS

The Mexican President added that the two countries would continue talks on security and trade and that "the tariffs are put on pause for a month from now."

The pause added to the drama as Mr. Trump's tariffs against Canada and China are still slated to go into effect on Tuesday.

Mr. Trump posted on social media that he spoke Monday morning with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and would "be speaking to him again at 3:00 P.M." Both Canada and Mexico had plans to levy their own tariffs in response to U.S. actions, but Mexico is holding off for the moment.

Tariff split-up

Mexico is facing a 25% tariff, while Canada would be charged 25% on its imports to the United States and 10% on its energy products. China is facing a 10% additional tariff due to its role in the making and selling of fentanyl, the Trump White House said.

China will be laughing, says EU Foreign Minister on trade war

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Reacting to U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks on Sunday evening that tariffs against the EU were "definitely" on the cards, the EU's top foreign affairs and security official, Kaja Kallas, said China would stand to benefit from any U.S.-EU trade war. Ms. Kallas was speaking to a group of reporters on Monday morning, prior to addressing a conference of EU Ambassadors in Brussels.

"If the United States starts the trade war [sic] , then the one laughing on the side is China. We are very interlinked. We need America, and America needs us as well," she said, adding that tariffs increased costs and were detrimental for consumers as well as for the job market.

Kaja Kallas

Mr. Trump had announced tariffs on Canada, China and Mexico on Saturday. Asked about which country would be next to face U.S. tariffs, and specifically about the U.K., Mr. Trump shifted the focus of his response to the EU, saying the bloc would "definitely" face tariffs.

"It might happen with that (the U.K.), but it will definitely happen with the EU," Mr. Trump said, claiming that the EU ran a trade surplus of over $300 billion with the U.S.

Mr. Trump's numbers are at odds with EU official data. The bloc had a €155.8 billion ($159.9 billion) trade surplus in goods with the U.S. in 2023 as per these data. It ran a trade deficit in services of €104 billion.

Mr. Trump on Sunday, named automobiles and farm products as particular industries of concern, calling the EU's trade position an "atrocity" and alleging that the bloc was "taking advantage" of the U.S. On the U.K., he said it was "out of line". "I think that one can be worked out," he added.

In Brussels, Ms. Kallas said the EU was carefully listening to Mr. Trump's remarks and "preparing". "But what is clear, there are no winners in trade wars."

EU to adopt a more pragmatic approach in talks with India and others, says Kallas

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The EU's top foreign policy and security official, Kaja Kallas, indicated a shift in the bloc's dialogue postures, with a greater emphasis on pragmatism, transactionalism and mutual benefit in its approach. Ms. Kallas said this would inform Brussels's discussions with New Delhi later this month when European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the College of Commissioners will visit India.

"The majority of countries are reluctant to make a choice between autocracies opposing the West and the West itself. It was the same during the Cold War," Ms. Kallas said during her opening address at a conference of EU Ambassadors in Brussels on Monday. Countries were guided by their self-interest and "not by whether they are allies of the EU, the U.S., China or Russia" , she said.

Previously, India had bristled at EU criticisms over New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil

"This is true across the world, look at Türkiye and the Gulf States in peace mediation roles with their own strategic agendas and transactional approaches," said Ms. Kallas. "The question is whether the EU should become transactional too. In many ways it is time we should," she added. The remarks come two weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump's return to the White House and hours after he threatened to slap tariffs onto the bloc's exports to America. Ms. Kallas called for the EU to have more "mutually beneficial" projects with partners, citing the recent trade deals with Mexico and 'Mercusor' (a group comprising Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) as pragmatic and logical.

"We should have more mutually beneficial projects like these," she said, adding, "This is the spirit which we will take to India this year."

"The visit of the College is a chance to deepen a relationship that represents a quarter of global population and GDP," Ms. Kallas said. During her speech, Ms. Kallas said every country had a different cultural and historical background and the EU would adopt a tailor-made approach to its partners.

Previously, India has bristled at EU criticisms over New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had criticised the EU for its double standards, citing its own Russian oil and gas purchase policies.

Last month, Ms. Von der Leyen's trade chief, Maroš Šefčovic, had told media outlet *Politico* that the forthcoming India visit was "a very strong political signal" and suggested there would be new areas of sectoral cooperation.

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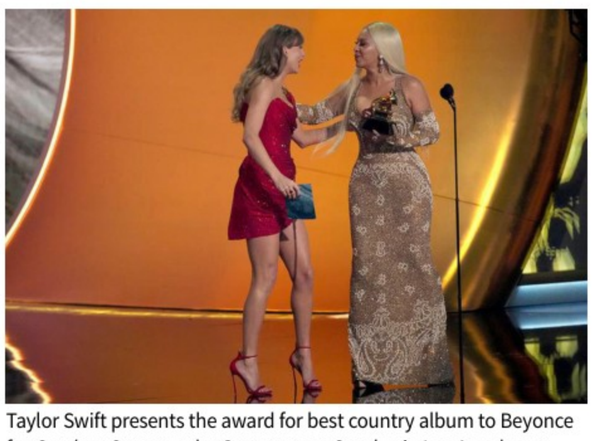
Beyonce wins top album at Grammys, as Lamar shines

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

Beyonce on Sunday finally won the Grammy for the year's best album for her culture-shaking *Cowboy Carter*, as rapper Kendrick Lamar posted a clean sweep on a night that served as a love letter to fire-ravaged Los Angeles.

Chappell Roan, Charli XCX, Doechii and Sabrina Carpenter emerged as big winners at the performance-heavy gala, while heavyweights Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish went home empty-handed.

Beyonce's win for *Cowboy Carter* now makes her the most nominated, most decorated artist at the awards show ever – as well as the first Black woman to claim the top prize in this century.



Taylor Swift presents the award for best country album to Beyonce for *Cowboy Carter* at the Grammys on Sunday in Los Angeles. AP

Indian-American vocalist and entrepreneur Chandrika Tandon, and two other collaborators won the Grammy award for the album *Triveni* in the Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album category.

Marco Rubio to take over U.S. aid agency

Agence France-Presse
SAN SALVADOR

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday he had been put in charge of the U.S. aid agency, saying he would stop its "insubordination" to President Donald Trump's agenda.

After Mr. Trump's billionaire friend and advisor Elon Musk vowed to destroy the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), whose website went dark over the weekend, Mr. Rubio confirmed he and the State Department had assumed control of the autonomous body.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

WPL changed conversations around women's cricket: Smriti

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

RCB skipper Smriti Mandhana said on Monday that the Women's Premier League has changed the "conversations" surrounding women's cricket. "We used to play in the Big Bash League and everyone used to ask when we would have our own league, and the WPL came and changed the conversations around women's cricket".

STEPPING IN

Henry replaces Healy at Warriorz; RCB signs up Graham, Garth

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

UP Warriorz on Monday drafted in Chinelle Henry as a replacement for injured Alyssa Healy for the upcoming edition of the Women's Premier League. Royal Challengers Bengaluru picked Heather Graham and Kim Garth as replacements for Sophie Devine and Kate Cross respectively.

DEJECTED

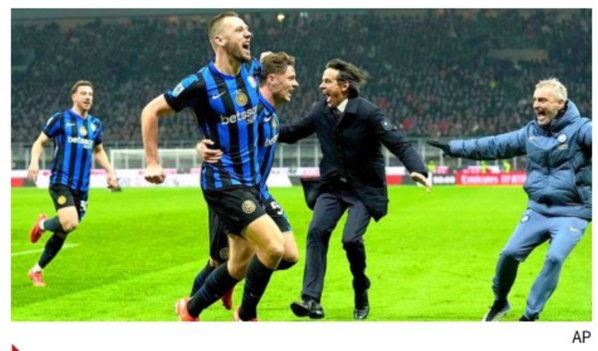
I don't have a defence for my players or myself, says Guardiola

AFP

Pep Guardiola slammed "fragile" Manchester City for surrendering in a 1-5 defeat against Arsenal in the Premier League. "It's happened all season, we are giving away too many things, we are aware this cannot happen... I don't have a defence to defend my players, or myself first of course," Guardiola said.

GRITTY

Inzaghi proud of his wards' show in crazy draw against AC Milan



AP

Inter coach Simone Inzaghi talked about the 1-1 draw his team pulled off against AC Milan in the Serie A. "Three ruled-out goals, hitting the post three times and an obvious penalty not given. Despite this, we managed to get something from the game." **Other result:** Roma 1 (Angelino 90+2) drew with Napoli 1 (Spinazzola 29).

Praggnanandhaa takes home maiden Masters title

The 19-year-old comes from behind to upstage World champion Gukesh in a tense tiebreaker after both suffer losses in the final round to end up tied with 8.5 points

TATA STEEL CHESS

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

The Indian juggernaut in international chess rolled on as Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa fought through exhaustion and nerves to defeat World champion D. Gukesh in a clash of compatriots to clinch the Tata Steel Masters title for the first time.

The bespectacled 19-year-old from Chennai came from behind to upstage the 18-year-old World No. 3 2-1 in the tiebreaker of the event's 87th edition here on Sunday.

Both players ended up tied on 8.5 points after losing their 13th-round games. While Gukesh lost to fellow Indian Arjun Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa went down to Vincent Keymer of Germany.

"I am still shaking, it was such a crazy day. I don't know how to express. I didn't really expect to win. Somehow things went my way," Praggnanandhaa told the official tournament website after his triumph.

In elite company: Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian after Anand to win the title. @FIDE_CHESS

Asked if it was the most tense day of his chess career, Praggnanandhaa responded: "Today is more special because I won the tournament. Definitely most stressful day." Praggnanandhaa showed perfect technique in the sudden death to take the full point and his maiden victory at the Masters.

The teenager became the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to win the title. Anand won it thrice (2003, 2004 and 2006) individually when it was called the Corus Chess Tournament. The legend also shared the honours twice (1989 and 1998) in its earliest form of Hoogovens Tournament. "It was a very difficult game. Against Vincent I didn't play anywhere close to the level I was playing here. I should buy something for Arjun. At some point I thought Gukesh was better," Praggnanandhaa said.

Final standings:

Masters: 1. R. Praggnanandhaa (8.5), 2. D. Gukesh (8.5), 3. Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 8), 4. Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 7.5), 5. Anish Giri (Ned, 7), 6. Wei Yi (Chn, 7), 7. P. Harikrishna (6.5), 8. Vincent Keymer (Ger, 6), 9. Fabiano Caruana (USA, 6), 10. Arjun Erigaisi (5.5), 11. Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 5.5), 12. Alexey Sarana (Srb, 5.5), 13. Leon Luke Mendonca (5), 14. Max Warmerdam (Ned, 4.5).

Challengers: 1. Thai Dai van Nguyen Nguyen (Cze, 9.5), 2. Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 9.5), 3 Erwin l'Ami (Ned, 8.5), 4.Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 8), 5 Benjamin Bok (Ned, 8), 6. Ediz Gurel (Tur, 7.5), 7 Frederik Svane (Ger, 7.5), 8 Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz, 7.5), 9. Vaishali (6), 10. Miaoyi Lu (Chn, 5.5), 11. Arthur Pijpers (Ned, 5.5), 12. Divya Deshmukh (3.5), 13. Faustino Oro (Arg, 3.5), 14.Irina Bulmaga (Rou, 1).

Abhishek stresses on clarity of playing style after blistering ton

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

On a windy Durban night in September 2007, Yuvraj Singh lit up the T20I world by smashing all six balls of a Stuart Broad over into the stands en route the fastest 50 by an Indian (12 balls) in the shortest format. A little over a decade later, on a chilly night in Indore, Rohit Sharma tore apart a hapless Sri Lankan attack to notch up the fastest hundred in the format (35 balls) by an Indian, still the joint-fastest involving Test-playing nations.

Cut to a pleasant Sunday night at the Wankhede Stadium, with Abhishek Sharma – a mentee of the first record-holder and surname-sake of the other – brought back memories of those memorable innings. He may have risen to second in terms of both the records – racing to a 17-ball fifty and then converting it into a 37-ball hundred in the series finale against England - but he created two more records that no other Indian had managed to do thus far.

No Indian batter had hit more than 10 sixes in an innings. Abhishek had 13 to his credit. And no Indian had overhauled the 130-run mark in a T20I innings. The stylish southpaw did so, raising the highest individual score for an Indian batter in T20Is.

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Ind-Eng T20I series in numbers

Batting	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Abhishek	5	279	135	219.68	1/1
Buttler	5	146	68	137.73	0/1
Tilak	5	133	72*	131.68	0/1

Bowling	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	5W
Varun	5	14	5/24	7.66	1
Carse	4	9	3/29	8.37	0
Overton	5	7	3/23	9.27	0

Ever since he had a breakthrough Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in 2023, Abhishek has continued to be consistent time and again. While he thanked mentor Yuvraj for believing in him, in an age where young batters forget to put a price tag on their wicket, Abhishek remembered the advice from the legendary Brian Lara in the Sunrisers Hyderabad dressing room.

"I practised a lot of match scenarios in open nets. Brian Lara had told me one thing: 'just play your shots but make sure that you don't get out'. That is what I had in mind and it helped me. I felt I could hit shots off even the first or second balls," Abhishek said.

"When you are young, you don't explore much, but I did that and realised I could play with more intent and help the team. When you do well, you get the support of your team. So I thought that when it is my day, I have to play this way – whether for Punjab or my franchise. Obviously when it comes to India, it's a special and a big moment. I felt that if I have the ability, I should nourish it. There are ups and downs, but you need to be clear about playing this way."

Abhishek stressed that he was particularly pleased by the way he used the pace of the ball to clear the fence. If he continues in the same vein, Yuvraj and Rohit's records could be under threat.

Indians aplenty in ICC team of the tournament

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

Newly crowned India dominated the ICC's 'Team of the Tournament' for the women's Under-19 T20 World Cup, with four players from the country finding a place in the line-up.

The team: G. Trisha (Ind), Jemma Botha (SA), Davina Perrin (Eng), G. Kamalini (Ind), Caoimhe Bray (Aus), Puja Mahato (Nep), Kayla Reyneke (Capt., SA), Katie Jones (wk, Eng), Aayushi Shukla (Ind), Chamodi Praboda (SL), Vaishnavi Sharma (Ind) and Nthabiseng Nini (SA).

Top performers

Batting	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100s/50s
Trisha (Ind)	7	309	110*	77.25	147.14	1/0
Perrin (Eng)	5	176	74	35.20	135.38	0/1
Kamalini (Ind)	7	143	56*	35.75	104.37	0/2
Bray (Aus)	5	119	45	29.75	96.74	0/0
Botha (SA)	6	105	37	26.25	123.52	0/0

Bowling	Inns	Wkts	BB	Avg	Econ	4W/5W
Vaishnavi (Ind)	6	17	5/5	4.35	3.36	0/1
Aayushi (Ind)	7	14	4/8	5.71	3.01	1/0
Reyneke (SA)	6	11	3/2	6.27	4.14	0/0
Parunika (Ind)	6	10	3/7	5.80	2.71	0/0
Hasrat (Aus)	6	10	2/9	8.50	4.04	0/0

HIL 2.0: a perfect platform for the established players and fresh faces

Aashin Prasad
ROURKELA

The much-awaited return of the Hockey India League (HIL) delivered in spades, promising to expand India's talent pool. New stars emerged, fresh faces found a platform, and young players mixed with some of the best in the world.

Under the watchful eyes of India coach Craig Fulton, Jugraj Singh enjoyed a career-defining tournament, highlighted by his powerful drag flicks in the final. Fulton dubbed the HIL "Jugi's Olympics," hoping that the Rarh Bengal Tigers defender would now step up and provide a strong alternative to skipper Harmanpreet Singh in short-corner situations.

Before the tournament's push-back, the Tigers were considered the weakest team due to their squad's age and profile. However, they defied expectations, going all the way to beat Hyderabad Toofans, arguably the team of the tournament, in the final.

The Toofans had remained unbeaten in regulation time across eight matches before the final but were undone by a hattrick from Jugraj, who finished as the tournament's top scorer with 12 goals. Another Indian drag-flicker, 22-year-old Amandeep Lakra, also made a name for himself, scoring in both the semifinal and the final to conclude the campaign with five goals.

Back with a bang: HIL made a much-awaited return. M. VEDHAN

Lakra, who grew up a stone's throw from the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, thrilled the locals and his family in attendance. The find of the tournament was Toofans' dazzling forward Arshdeep Singh, whose skills, direct play, and three goals earned him a maiden call-up to the senior national team. The HIL also shone a light on several players who have been toiling away in domestic hockey, such as Mohammed Raheel and Affan Yousuf. India's search for a long-term no. 1 goalkeeper suffered due to the five-foreigner rule, but Krishan Pathak and young Bikramjit Singh impressed.

Alongside the Tigers and Toofans, Soorma Hockey Club and Tamil Nadu Dragons also made it to the semifinals. Soorma, spearheaded by veterans Harmanpreet and Vincent Vanasch, staged an impressive turnaround before falling to the Toofans.

The Dragons, meanwhile, were left aggrieved at how they squandered the top spot in the league stage and a possible place in the final.

While restricting the tournament to just two venues—Rourkela and Ranchi—aided sustainability, dwindling attendance in Rourkela until the final cast a shadow over what was otherwise a successful endeavour for Hockey India.

Sahaja goes down fighting to Tararudee

MUMBAI OPEN WTA 125

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

Thailand's Lanlana Tararudee advanced to the second round of the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125 with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 victory over India's Sahaja Yamalapalli at the Cricket Club of India on Monday.

India No. 1 Sahaja began well, winning the opening game in quick time. However, Tararudee quickly bounced back, capitalising on Sahaja's errors. The Thai's powerful returns and precise forehands helped her take a 3-1 lead.

Sahaja responded with a solid baseline game to make the scoreline 3-2. After a marathon sixth game which lasted more than 15 minutes, Sahaja equalised. The Indian, however, couldn't sustain the momentum and Tararudee regained control to take the set 6-3.

In the second, Sahaja adopted a strategy of playing closer to the net, catching Tararudee off-guard. Despite falling behind, she broke her opponent's serve and went on to level the match.

The decider saw Tararudee shift gears. Her well-placed volleys often caught a tired Sahaja on the wrong foot as the World No. 175 raced to the finish.

Tararudee. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier in the day, the top-seeded German Tatjana Maria, a semifinalist at Wimbledon 2022, had to withdraw before her opening round match against Serbia's Aleksandra Krunic because of illness.

Croatia's Petra Marcinko took her place but Krunic knocked her out in straight sets.

The results (first round):
Rebecca Marino (Can) bt Sara Bejlek (Cze) 6-0, 6-2; Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) bt Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) 6-3, 6-1; Aleksandra Krunic (Srb) bt Petra Marcinko (Cro) 6-4, 6-2; Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

INBRIEF

Morata completes loan move to Galatasaray from AC Milan

Alvaro Morata has joined Galatasaray on loan from AC Milan, the Turkish champion announced on Sunday. "An agreement has been reached with AC Milan," Galatasaray announced on its website. The Istanbul club said that the loan would last until January 20, 2026 when it would have an option to buy or extend it. It added that the team had paid Milan a "temporary transfer fee" of €6 million and that the player would receive €3 million for the rest of this season.

Odisha FC escapes with a draw against NEUFC

Odisha FC rallied to hold NorthEast United FC 2-2 in an ISL match in Bhubaneswar on Monday. Alaaeddine Ajaraie drew first blood for the Highlanders in the 67th minute. Thoiba Singh restored parity for the home side in the 78th. Ajaraie regained lead for NorthEast in the 83rd minute while Isak Vanlalruatfela earned a point for Odisha in injury time.

The results: Odisha FC 2 (Thoiba Singh 78, Isak Vanlalruatfela 90+3) drew with NEUFC 2 (Alaaeddine Ajaraie 67 & 83).
On Sunday: At Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC 3 (Lazar Cirkovic 34, Javier Siverio 37 & 68) bt FC Goa 1 (Ayush Chhetri 45+1).

Som signs with Slovenian club NK Radomlje

Former Kerala Blasters FC goalkeeper Som Kumar – who parted ways with the club in this January transfer window – joined Slovenian super division club NK Radomlje on Monday.

LIVE TELECAST

Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Wednesday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Trisha channels WPL disappointment to guide India to the title

'I'm glad that I made full use of the opportunities. We have been training together as a team for the last nine months and each one of us had defined roles and we were expected to raise the bar'

CRICKET

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Gongadi Trisha played a key role in India's successful title defence in the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup. In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*, she said that not getting picked in the Women's Premier League auction was a huge motivating factor in her performances in Kuala Lumpur, which earned her the 'Player of the Tournament' award.

The 19-year-old channelled her disappointment and put her best foot forward and the result, she believes, was gratifying.

"Yes, it was a bit disappointing [to not get picked] but then I also told myself that I need to perform even better to be picked.

Satisfying

"In that context, my all-round performance in this World Cup is immensely satisfying," she said.

Trisha, who is a huge fan of Mithali Raj, played the role of opener to perfection in the tournament – something she did not get to do during India's triumph in the previous edition in South Africa.

"I'm glad that I made full use of the opportunities. We have been training together as a team for the last nine months. And each one of us had defined roles and we were expected to raise the bar," Trisha said.

Prized possession: Trisha, a big fan of Mithali, played the role of opener to perfection. X@ICC

> I'm glad that I was there till we won [the final]... The whole effort was to stay focused, be consistent, and play to my strengths

Trisha, who scored 309 runs in seven innings and took nine wickets with her leg-spin, expressed delight at her contributions in key matches. "To contribute to the team's success, especially in the semifinal and the final is all the more special. But the most memorable is the 100 against Scotland," Trisha said.

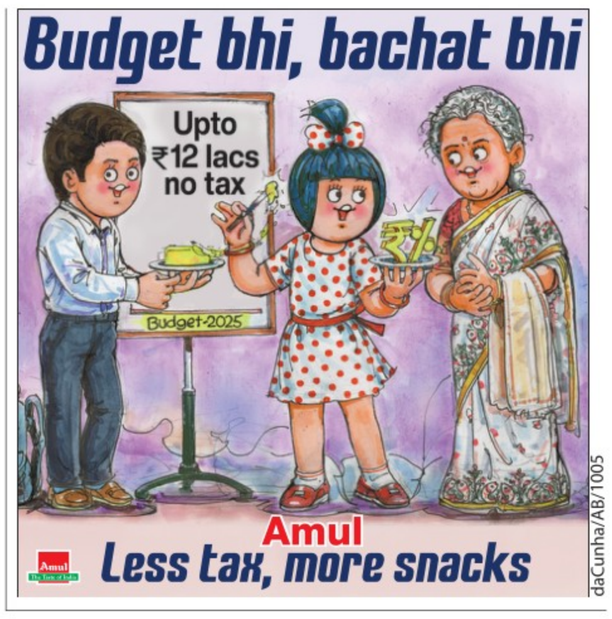
In the final against South Africa, the Bhadrachalam-born teenager top scored (44 not out) and picked three wickets – earning her the 'Player of the Match' award.

While happy with her contributions in the summit clash, Trisha said that she focused on being consistent and played to her strengths in the series.

"I'm glad that I was there till we won [the final]. Honestly, I didn't make any critical adjustments to my technique - both in batting and bowling.

" The whole effort was to stay focused, be consistent, and play to my strengths," she said.

Trisha said that winning the title in what was her last Under-19 match (she will be graduating to the seniors soon) was all the more special.



Jacopo Berrettini upsets sixth seed Sho Shimakukuro

CHENNAI OPEN

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Italy's Jacopo Berrettini, the younger brother of former Wimbledon finalist Matteo Berrettini, caused the first big upset in the main draw of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger with a straight sets win over sixth seed Sho Shimakukuro on Monday.

Berrettini, ranked No. 324 in the world, won 6-3, 7-6 against Shimakukuro in the first main draw match of the tournament.

Mochizuki advances

In the other main draw match, fifth seed Shintaro Mochizuki of Japan defeated Italy's Enrico Dalla Valle 6-2, 6-1 to move into the last 16.

Meanwhile, the four Indians failed to win their final-round qualifying matches. Chirag Duhan, 21, battled hard before falling in a third-set tiebreak to Yurii Dzhavakian 4-6, 6-1, 7-6.

Dev Javia went to three sets against Egor Agafonov before going down 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

On Tuesday, India's Ramkumar Ramanathan, Mukund Sasikumar and Karan Singh will be playing in their respective first-round matches.

The tournament's top two seeds, Great Britain's Billy Harris, ranked No 129 in the world, and South African Lloyd Harris, ranked No 142, will also begin their singles campaign on Tuesday.

Important results (qualifying, final round):

Maxim Zhukov bt Sascha Gueymard Wayenburg (Fra) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; Kimmer Coppejans (Bel) bt Siddharth Vishwakarma 6-1, 6-0.

Hynek Barton (Cze) bt Olaf Pieczkowski (Pol) 6-3, 6-3; Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-2, 6-3; Egor Agafonov bt Dev Javia 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Yurii Dzhavakian (Ukr) bt Chirag Duhan 4-6, 6-1, 7-6.

Suryaksh shocks Saneeth, to meet Sathish for men's badminton gold

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

After keeping everyone guessing for the last few days, host Uttarakhand's World No. 10 Lakshya Sen pulled out of the National Games badminton competition but Suryaksh Rawat nicely made up for the disappointment in the home camp by packing off Karnataka's second-seeded D.S. Saneeth and entering the men's singles final.

Just 16, the unseeded Suryaksh came up with a stunning display in the semifinal, recovering from 15-19, and took the last six points to win the decider 13-21, 22-20, 21-19.

"I didn't make many mistakes, I kept it simple, went for long strokes," said Suryaksh who will meet Tamil Nadu's top-seeded K. Sathish Kumar in Tuesday's gold-medal clash.

Meanwhile, in weightlifting, Tamil Nadu's S. Rudramayan broke the snatch national record raising it to 175kg (OR 172) in the men's plus-109kg event but could only end up with the overall silver (total 355kg). Services' Lovepreet Singh took the gold with 367kg.

"I was expecting gold but clean-and-jerk let me down a bit," said Rudramayan. "My dad Soronamuthu, a Commonwealth Games medallist in 1990, is my coach.

Going strong: Uttarakhand's Suryaksh sailed into the men's singles final. *Below:* weightlifter Rudramayan created a National record. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Mehak shines

Later Punjab's Mehak Sharma was on a record-breaking spree in the women's above 87kg event, bettering the records in snatch (new 106kg), clean-and-jerk (141) and total (247) to win the gold comfortably.

Velavan on song

Tamil Nadu's Velavan Senthil Kumar and Goa's Akanksha Salunkhe won the men's and women's titles in squash at Pithoragaarh.

In swimming, Dhinidhi Desinghu broke the Games record in the women's 400m freestyle by nearly three seconds to add more sparkle to her impressive medal haul at Haldwani.

The results: Squash (finals): Men: Velavan Senthil Kumar (TN) bt Rahul Baitha (Mah) 11-6, 11-9, 11-7.
Women: Akanksha Salunkhe (Goa) bt Anjali Semwal (Mah) 11-6, 11-9, 11-7.
Badminton (singles semifinals): Men: K. Sathish Kumar bt Kushal Dharmamer (Mah) 21-10, 21-9; Suryaksh Rawat bt D.S. Saneeth (Kar) 13-21, 22-20, 21-19.
Women: Anupama Upadhyaya (Del) bt Shreya Lele (Guj) 17-21, 21-19, 21-15; Anmol Kharb (Har) bt Tasnim Mir (21-16, 16-21, 21-19.
Swimming (winners only): Men: 800m freestyle: Kushagra Rawat (Del) 8:12.89s. **50m backstroke:** Srihari Nataraj (Kar) 26.09s. **200m medley:** Shoan Ganguly (Kar) 2:06.61s. **Women: 400m freestyle:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar) 4:24.60s MR, OR 4:27.93. **50m backstroke:** Vihitha Nayana (Kar) 31.46s. **200m medley:** Saanvi Deshwal (Mah) 2:24.90s. **Mixed: 4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka 3:41.03s.

Jonathan eclipses Sarabjot for gold; Sift sizzles

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

Jonathan Gavin Anthony has got a lot to think about these days. His 10th standard board exams are coming up later this month and he has the National shooting trials next week. But he pushed out all those out of his mind on Monday and produced a stunning performance that shocked Paris Olympic medallist Sarabjot Singh and fetched the Bengaluru boy the men's 10m air pistol gold at the National Games shooting competition here.

Golden arm: Sift was unstoppable. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"I was a bit nervous at the start but after a bit it became okay. After the first five shots, I was confident and I thought I'd win," said Jonathan (240.7 points) who at 15 became the youngest shooter to win a gold in the Games' Uttarakhand edition here. "This is the biggest gold of my life."

Services' Ravinder Singh (240.3) and Gurpreet Singh (220.1) took the silver and bronze.

Sift Kaur Samra, the World record holder, won the women's 50m three-position gold (461.2 points) beating Punjab teammate Anjum Moudgil (458.7) while Surabhi Bharadwaj Rapole (448.8) took the bronze.

"This feels like a comeback after the Olympics, I didn't take a break after Paris and continued to train," said Sift who finished 31st at the Paris Olympics.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sports scribes Madhu, Manuja bag awards

Bengaluru sports scribes Madhu Jawali and Manuja Veerappa were among the awardees of the Karnataka Media Academy award presentation ceremony for 2023 and 2024 held in Bengaluru on Monday.
Manuja, Senior Assistant Editor, *The Times of India*, won the award for 2024.
Madhu, Sports Editor, *Deccan Herald*, won the 2023 award.
The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka D.K. Shivakumar.

Manuja (The Times of India) and Madhu (Deccan Herald).

Pavan scores ton

Pavan Sreedhar (120, 225b, 10x4, 3x6) powered Kerala to a position of strength against Karnataka on the third day of their C.K. Nayudu (under-23) Trophy match at Alur grounds on Monday.
Kerala, having conceded an eight-run first innings lead, moved to 341 for seven in the second essay. The visitor holds a 333-run overall lead.
Karnataka off-spinner Shashi Kumar bagged a five-wicket haul.
The scores: Kerala 327 & 341/7 in 98 overs (Pavan Sreedhar 120, Rohan Nair 39, Kiran Sagar 50 n.o., Shashi Kumar 5/130) vs Karnataka 335.

Basavaraju triumphs

Embassy International Riding School (EIRS) rider Basavaraju won the Show Jumping 120 cm class event in the State Equestrian Competition hosted by Karnataka Riding Association in collaboration with Embassy International Riding School here.

Basavaraju won the Show Jumping 120cm class.

The results (astride, academy in brackets): Winners: Introductory Dressage Test class: Aindrita Banerjee (Barringo, ZEC); **Preliminary Dressage Test class:** Dishant (Kannjo, EIRS); **Pre-Novice Dressage Test class:** Arnav Navaratna (Power, ZEC); **Show Jumping 60cm class:** Tanush Reddy (Kalina, EIRS); **Show Jumping 80cm class:** Hemkilaru (Barona, EIRS); **Show Jumping 100 cm class:** Hiba Gabriel (Black Bird, FSS); **Show Jumping 110 cm class:** Barath Manoharan (Vibrato, ZEC); **Show Jumping 120 cm class:** Basavaraju (Dinky Boy, EIRS).

Anita nets winner

Anita's goal helped Technico FF defeat Offside Trap FA 1-0 in the KSFA 'A' division women's football in Bengaluru on Monday.

The results: Technico FF 1 (Anita 37) bt Offside Trap FA 0; Kemp Juniors FC 2 (Advika 45, Chaitanya 56) bt Young Blues Elite FC 0.

Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' has it easy

Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' blanked Kolar District HA 5-0 in the KSHA-BHA 'A' division hockey league here on Monday.

The results: Team Wildboar 4 (Gyan Ganapathy 18, Prince Ponnanna 22, 26, Prathik Poovanna 39) bt Flying HC 1 (Hari Rama 31); Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' 5 (Prajwal 7, 29, 41, Shajahan 19, 48) bt Kolar District HA 0.